

## TAP “ALPHABET” (sounds)

**Just like every words we know is built from the 26 letters of the alphabet, every piece of tap “vocabulary” (larger, multi-sound steps) that we do is comprised of these 16 basic sounds:**

**Heel** - 1 sound, heel tap drops flat on the floor. Toe does not leave the floor.

**Tap** - 1 sound, toe tap drops flat on the floor. Heel does not leave the floor. (Move just the ankle)

**Dig** - 1 sound. Whole foot picks up, and the back edge of the heel hits the floor. Both knees are bent.

**Toe** - 1 sound. Whole foot picks up, and the tip of the toe hits the floor. Toe must pick right back up, not resting on the floor at the end.

**Step** - 1 sound. Ball of the foot with a weight transfer.

**Touch** - 1 sound. Ball of the foot with no weight transfer. (Move the whole leg)

**Stamp** - 1 sound. Flat foot with a weight transfer.

**Stomp** - 1 sound. Flat foot with no weight transfer.

**Jump** - 1 sound. Leap from one foot to the other foot on the ball of the foot. Emphasis on jumps goes down, not up.

**Hop** - 1 sound. Hop on the ball of the same foot that you started on. Emphasis on hops go down, not up.

**Brush** - 1 sound. Lift the foot, and brush the toe tap only sharply along the ground in any direction, ending with the foot in the air.

**Scuff** - 1 sound. Lift the foot, and brush the heel tap only sharply along the ground in a forward direction, lifting it at the end.

**Spank** - 1 sound. Foot starts flat on the floor, the toe lifts, and then the ball of the foot brushes backwards, ending off the floor.

**Chug** - 1 sound. Foot starts flat on the floor, the heel lifts, and then the heel tap drops as the toe tap simultaneously slides forward. Ends on the floor.

**Shuffle** - 2 sounds. Shuffles always happen with a loose ankle with no tension. In shuffles, the thigh moves down and up; the working foot should never move behind the supporting leg. Shuffles end in the air (no weight change.)

**Flaps** - 2 sounds. Flaps always happen with a loose ankle with no tension. In flaps the thigh moves down and out. Flaps end on the ground (weight change.)

## TAP “VOCABULARY” (steps)

**The sentences we speak are built using the individual words in our vocabulary. The more words in our vocabulary, the more interesting sentences we can create. Likewise, the more multi-sound steps we have in our tap “vocabulary,” the more interesting dances we can create. Here are some examples of pieces of tap vocabulary (steps) that your teacher might include in your routine in the fall:**

### **Group A**

Step Heels

Dig Taps

Step Touch

Shuffle Hop Step

Shuffle Bal Change

Flap Step

Flap Touch

Flap Hop

Flap Heel

Brushback Heel

Flap Heel Heel

Brushback Heel Heel

### **Group B**

Bal Change

Paradiddle/Paddle Roll

Reverse Paradiddle

Double/Triple Paradiddle

Reverse Double/Triple Paradiddle

Buffalo

Double Buffalo

Triple Buffalo

Buffalo Turn

Maxi Ford

Trading Maxi Ford

Maxi Ford Turn

Jump Shuffles  
Hop Shuffle  
Shuffle Jump Toe  
Step Heel Turn  
Step Toe Heel Turn  
Step Toe Hop Turn  
Hop shuffle hop toe

Irish  
Double Irish  
Waltz Clog  
Double Waltz Clog  
Cramp Roll

Trading Cramp Roll  
Cramp Roll Turn  
Back Essence  
Alexander  
4 Count Riff Walk  
5 Count Riff Walk  
1st Time Step  
2nd Time Step  
3rd Time Step

### **Note Values**