

# Motif (mō 'tēf)

Objective: I can identify, create and perform a motif.



## Engage



**Motif** = A simple movement pattern (perhaps 3 movements or a phrase) which is composed and remembered by the dancer. The initial motif starts to communicate the dance idea/theme and is capable of being developed. It provides shape and structure to a dance.



## Explore

Watch [this video on using motif in composition](#)



## Explain

**STEP ONE:** Check out [this resource](#) on using **motif**.

**STEP TWO:** It's time for you to create a **motif**. Use [this template](#) to find an idea to dance about.

- Not sure how it works? Checkout this [example template](#)



## Apply

**STEP ONE:** Create your **motif**. Using your template as a guide, create an 8-count dance phrase that will be your motif.

**STEP TWO:** Change using the choreographic devices in the

[video](#) and dance elements of the dance phrase. Use [this dance elements chart](#) if you need a little help. Experiment with your **motif** until you have something you like.

**STEP THREE:** Record yourself performing your new dance phrase. As you watch it, TAG yourself.

- Tell something you liked about your performance
- Ask a question about your performance
- Give a suggestion about how to improve the performance



## Share

**STEP 1:** Reflect on the following questions. Then, **write your responses to the following questions in your portfolio.**

- What is a **motif**? How can you identify one when you watch a dance?
- What was your favorite part of this lesson & why?

**STEP 2:** Share your dance or performance with someone in your household or over a video call. Explain what a **dance motif** is, so your listener understands the context. You can even show them the dance before you changed it. Tell them what your favorite part of this lesson was.



## Reflect

Do you like your dance? Did you find this task challenging?

Add your reflection to your portfolio.