

Terms	#1 Reason Why	Audibly Different from Each Other	Easy to Say	Doesn't Sound Like Other Dance Terms	1 & 2 Syllables	Similar sounds to Gents / Ladies	Lack of Gender / Sexual Connotation	Lack of Implied Power Dynamic?	Implied Pairing	Implied Left / Right	Words Not In Everyday Use	Other Pros	Other Cons	Other Notes
Gents / Ladies	Tradition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Not really	Yes	No	Yes	Have been used for decades.	Gender/sexual connotations are non-negotiable to some, leading to this search for viable alternatives.	
Arm Bands / Bare Arms	Currently most widely used genderfree terms. In use for 18 years.	No	So-so - easy to say the wrong one	Yes	No	No	No - "Bears"	Yes?	So-so.	No	Mostly		Evokes Nazi-enforced arm bands to some. Many people don't like physical identifiers (complicates role-swapping, etc).	It's going to be important to show the value of whatever's ultimately settled upon "over" this pair of terms, since these terms are in use at a number of genderfree contras.
Jets / Rubies	Non-quirky linguistic corruption of Gents/Ladies without power dynamic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gemstones - though many think jet = plane	No	Yes	Has been used at a few genderfree dances successfully	Completely new and unheard of.	Seems the least polarizing of most current suggestions. Unique but not jocular.
Elms / Maples - Oaks / Maples	Satisfies many columns - an alternative to jets/rubies	Yes	Yes	Mostly - "Elm / Allemande"	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Trees sway, both trees are found in New England, birthplace of contra	Some people may find trees silly	"Elm" and "Oak" each have their own advantages. Elm has same soft e sound as "gent", but oak sounds crisper.
Larks / Ravens	L / R	Yes	Lark is mumbly	Yes	Yes	Mostly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Being used at a few west coast contras	"Lark" is often spoken in the front of the mouth... mumbly	
Ports / Starboards	No power dynamic and relates to where you line up/end a swing	Yes	Yes	No - "Star"	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nautical theme		Seems to garner a heavy reaction from people either for or against. Most complaints are "I'd have to get used to it" or "Starboard sounds too much like 'star'".
Leads / Follows	Straightforward use of traditional couple dance terminology	Yes	Yes	"Lead" and "Follow" are used as verbs in dances. Also, "Leads" and "Ladies" share an "L"	Yes	No	Mostly	No	Yes	No	No	Familiar dance terms. Have been used successfully.	Many people believe it's misleading, that contra really doesn't have "lead" and "follow" roles. "Leads" starts with "L", which can false-start people used to listening for "Ladies". There are times when the verbs "lead" or "follow" are used in the calling in a dance.	
Reds / Yellows	Lack of a power dynamic between most colors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 of 2	Yes	Yes	No	No	No		Might get conflated with physical identifiers, e.g. colored clothed confusing dancers about their role	Some people disliked colors. Maybe evokes race?
1s / 2s	Genderless	Yes	Yes	No - 1s and 2s used	No	No	Yes	Mostly not	No	No	No		1s and 2s already in use as synonyms for "actives" and "inactives".	
Lefts / Rights	Directly related to where you line up/end a swing	Yes	Yes	No - Left and Right directions, shoulders, etc.	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		The terms are already in major use, leading to a large possibility of confusion.	
(Gentle)spoons / Ladies	Quirky version of Gents/Ladies but (partly) stripped of gender	Yes	Yes, with "spoons"	Yes	Yes	1 of 2	So-so.	Yes	No	No	No		Some accusations of being too quirky.	
Lions / Giraffes	Uses "G" and "L", genderless	Yes	"Giraffes" awkward to say	No - "Lines"	No	No	Yes	Maybe? Lion is a predatory animal.	No	No	Yes		Some accusations of being too quirky.	