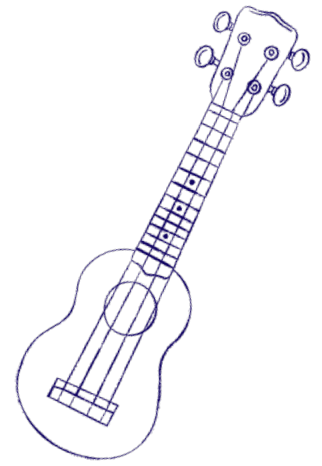


Play to Learn

☆☆ Ukulele ☆☆

Episode 2: Tuning



learning objectives

- Understand what tuning is and why it is important.
- Learn how to properly tune your ukulele.
- Practice tuning your ukulele.
- Identify how to tell when your ukulele is out of tune.

summary

Tuning your instrument means adjusting the tuning pegs to make sure each note sounds just right. When we tune, we're looking and listening to make sure each string or note sounds just like it's supposed to. We want them to sound clear and match each other so that when we play music, it sounds beautiful and in harmony! (Now, "harmony" is like when different notes are played at the same time/together.) Sometimes, when you play a note, it might sound a bit too low or too high. That's what we call "off-key." It's like singing a song, but not hitting the right notes. This can happen in our instrument if the strings or other parts of your instrument are not in the right place. It's totally normal When an instrument is "in tune," it means each note sounds just right, like they're singing together perfectly.

Hold on!
Do you have access
to a tuner?
Click here for some
options!



key terms

Tuner: An electronic device used for tuning an instrument.

Pitch: How high or low a note sounds.

Tuning: The act of setting strings to a specific set of pitches.

Sharp: When tuning, a note is sharp when it is too high above the pitch. This can happen when a string is too tight.

Flat: When tuning, a note is flat when it is too low under the pitch. This can happen when a string is too loose.

technique
tip!

Good Children Eat Anything!
This mnemonic device will help
you remember the standard
tuning of GCEA.



As you become more proficient at the ukulele, you'll be able to tell when your strings are out of tune. They'll sound a bit "off-key" and "sour", especially when you play more than one note at a time. With time, you'll get better at recognizing this, but regardless of whether you are a beginner or advanced player, you should always use an electronic tuner to help. When you play a string or note with a tuner, it will let you know if the note is flat (low), sharp (high), or just right.

The tuner will almost never be wrong, so it's a great resource to use.

technique
tip!

Remember, righty-tighty makes the sound go up, and lefty-loosey makes the sound go down! Be sure to only move the tuning pegs in very small motions. If you turn the peg too much, the string can snap.

Don't be afraid to for help when tuning your ukulele!

