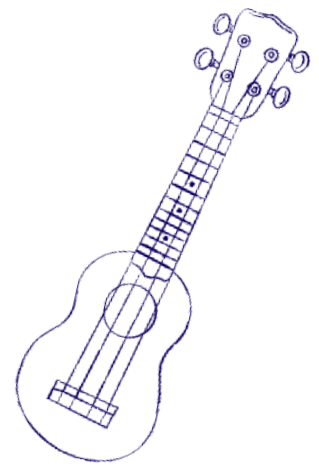


# Play to Learn

## ☆ Ukulele ☆

### Episode 1 Anatomy

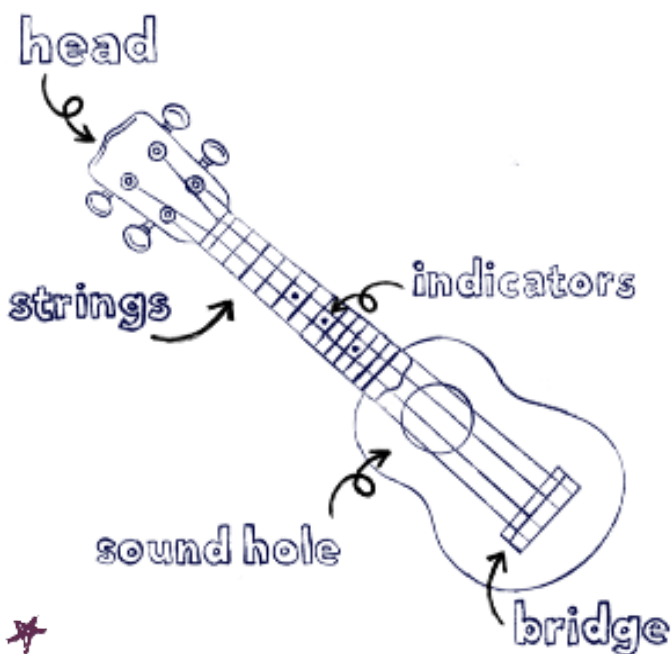


## learning objectives

- Understand the anatomy of the ukulele, including: the headstock, pegs, nut, fret, and sound hole.
- Demonstrate proper finger placement.
- Identify string numbers and understand how to tune the ukulele.

## summary

Anatomy means understanding all the parts of your instrument, like knowing the names of its pieces and where they are. It's like learning about the different parts of a puzzle before putting it together. Learning about your instrument's anatomy is important because it helps you understand how to hold it properly, how to make the right sounds, and how to take care of it. Knowing how your instrument works can make playing easier and more fun!



# key terms

Anatomy: The parts that make up your ukulele!

Head (headstock): The headstock is the piece of wood at the top of the ukulele neck. It holds the tuners and supports the tension of the strings.

Tuning pegs: Four small adjustable cylinders attached to the head of your ukulele that change each string's pitch.

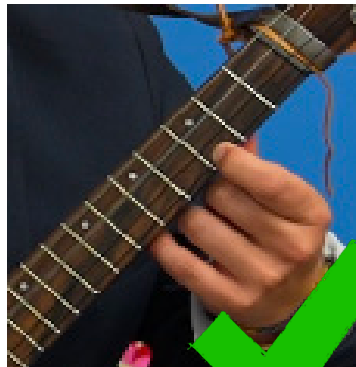
Nut: The strip at the top end of the fingerboard holding the strings in place.

Fretboard: The flat wooden surface with metal frets embedded along the ukulele. The fretboard connects the head to the soundboard.

Frets: The thin strips of metal set into the fretboard.

## technique tip!

When you play the ukulele, put your finger between the frets. Avoid placing the finger directly on the fret.



Indicators: Marks on the fretboard to guide your fingers as you play, typically presented as dots on the 5th, 7th, and 12th frets.

Sound hole: The circular hole in the body of the ukulele where the sound reverberates.

Saddle: The thin strip of material set in the wooden bridge to keep the strings at the proper distance from the fretboard. The strings pass over the saddle which acts as the endpoint for the strings' vibrations.

Bridge: The wooden piece glued below the sound hole.



Strings: Often a mixture of metal-wound and nylon strings plucked or strummed to create vibrations in the ukulele's sound hole.

In this visual tutorial, the strings will be color coded as follows:

G String - Orange

C String - Blue

E String - Green

A String - Pink



technique  
tip!

The strings are numbered 4321, with **string 4** being the top (closest to your nose) and **1** being the bottom (closest to your toes). Standard ukuleles are tuned GCEA, from string 4 to string 1. Tuning will be covered in the next episode!

- Tune **string 4**, the top string to G
- Tune **string 2**, the second string from the top to C
- Tune **string 3**, the second string from the bottom to E
- Tune **string 1**, the bottom string to A

