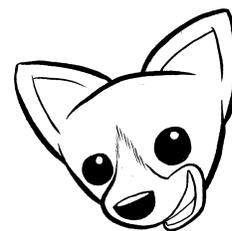


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Starting Out



Welcome to *Play Ukulele Today!* In just 10 lessons you'll learn to strum chords, pick melodies, read notation and much more. In the pages ahead you'll find half-a-dozen fun songs that will help you develop your skills in a practical, "hands-on" way. A few things you should know before you start:

High 4th string or low 4th string? In Lesson 1 you'll see that the 4th string (the "a" string) can be tuned either to "high a" or to "low a". The "low a" tuning (which requires a thicker string) expands the range of your ukulele and gives you access to more music. While "low a" tuning is more versatile, **either tuning will work for this book.**

Questions about tuning your ukulele?

Go to www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com/tuning for answers.

Where to begin? Picking melody or strumming chords? In this book you'll do both, but where to begin is your choice. For what it's worth, we believe that learning to play melody first gives you the best musical foundation.

- *If you'd like to start with melody go to Lesson 1 and get ready to sing and pick.*
- *If you'd like to start with chords go to Lesson 5 and get ready to strum and sing.*

Whatever you decide, aim to complete all 10 lessons. This will give you a well-rounded introduction to the building blocks of music: melody, harmony, and rhythm. And remember: don't practise until you get it right, *practise until you can't get it wrong!*

Looking for more? Visit www.playukuleletoday.com for free audio samples, flashcards, quizzes and answers to frequently asked questions (F.A.Q.) about playing the ukulele.

Let's get started!