

AN ARTICLE ABOUT SONGWRITING

How to write a song in seven easy steps

STEP 1 Before you start writing the lyrics, think of a title for your song. If you're writing a song about the future, you could use a title such as 'What the Future Brings'.

STEP 2 Find a tune for your song and make sure it's catchy! If you play an instrument, choose three notes – play the notes again and again in different ways to find a tune.

STEP 3 Think of a good beat for your song. What type of beat is best? Perhaps, you're going to choose a reggae beat, or a traditional rock beat.

STEP 4 So, now you have a title, a tune and a beat. Next, write the first three verses. You can begin with the topic of the song, fun words like la la la, or even a little laugh.

STEP 5 Then, think of a good chorus. A chorus is a verse that is repeated many times. It usually has the title of the song and it should be about the topic.

STEP 6 Next, write the 'bridge' – this goes after the third verse. The bridge sounds different to the rest of the song, and it can say something new about the topic. It has sometimes got a different rhythm, too.

STEP 7 Finally, repeat the chorus one last time ... and then your song will be ready!

Tips

When you start a song, it won't always be perfect. Finish the song first, you can change the lyrics later.

If you're going to sing your song in public, don't forget to practise first! Ask your friends to listen!



1 Read the article. Choose the correct answer a-c.

The article is giving advice to (...) on how to write songs.

- a) music experts b) beginners c) music teachers

2 Read the article again. Choose the correct option.

- 1 After you have the title, choose a good video / tune / verse for the song.
- 2 When you start writing the verses you should / can / mustn't start with the topic of the song.
- 3 You should write the chorus before / after / at the same time as the verses.
- 4 Always put the bridge / chorus / title one last time at the end.
- 5 If you aren't happy with a song, you can change the video / lyrics / singer later.
- 6 When you write a song, you should think of the chorus / title / tune first.

3 Correct the words in bold.

Before you write the lyrics, you need to think of a **chorus**. *title*

- 1 It's important to have a **traditional** tune. _____
- 2 It's OK to begin the song with a small **shout**. _____
- 3 You can hear the **bridge** many times in a song. _____
- 4 You can find the bridge after the **second** verse. _____
- 5 The song is ready when you repeat the chorus for the **first** time. _____

4 Match the questions 1-4 to the correct answers a-d.

- 1 If you play the guitar, how can you find a good tune for your song? _____
- 2 What three ways can you begin the song? _____
- 3 What is usually in the chorus? _____
- 4 How is the 'bridge' different from the rest of the song? _____

- a) You can begin with the topic, fun words or a little laugh.
- b) It can say something new about the topic and it can have a different rhythm.
- c) You can choose three notes and play them again and again.
- d) The title of the song.

5 Drag the informal words and phrases: ain't 'cos go bust gonna make it

Do you **want to** be a star one day? *wanna*

- 1 That band will **become successful** soon. _____
- 2 We're **going to** download that new song. _____
- 3 He **isn't** very good at singing. _____
- 4 Why did that singer **lose all his money**? _____
- 5 We love that song **because** it's really catchy. _____