



Musical Instruments

Let's Talk Music



Welcome!

Today you will:

- Learn key musical instrument vocabulary
- Use grammar to describe musical habits
- Practise speaking clearly and confidently
- Build sentences using new words
- Strengthen pronunciation and listening skills



Warm-Up – Let's Talk Music

- What kind of music do you like?
- Do you play any instruments?
- Have you ever been to a concert?

Try to answer in full sentences, example:

“I like classical music because it's calming.”

“I play the guitar a little.”



Vocabulary – Instrument Categories

Type of instrument:	Examples:
 String	Violin, Guitar, Cello
 Percussion	Drums, Tambourine
 Wind	Flute, Saxophone
 Brass	Trumpet, Trombone
 Keyboard	Piano, Organ, Synthesiser

Vocabulary Task – Guess & Match

- **Task:** Your tutor will describe an instrument, guess which one they are talking about!

Examples of ways to describe:

- “This instrument has six strings and you strum it.”
- “You hit this with sticks. It’s loud and keeps rhythm.”

Then swap roles: student describes, tutor guesses.

Grammar Rule – Present Simple vs Present Continuous

Grammar Explanation:

Present Simple – use for habits, routines, and facts

Structure: **Subject + base verb (s/es for he/she/it)**

Example:

- “He plays the piano every day.”
“I listen to jazz at night.”

Present Continuous – use for actions happening *right now*

Structure: **Subject + am/is/are + verb+ing**

Example:

- “She is playing the violin now.”
“We are listening to music.”

Tip: Don’t forget third person -s in present simple.



Grammar Practice – Fill the Blanks

Complete these sentences using the correct grammar:

- “Tom _____ (play) the drums every weekend.”
- “I _____ (listen) to a saxophone solo right now.”
- “She usually _____ (practise) the flute in the morning.”
- “We _____ (learn) the cello this month.”

Speaking Task – Describe Your Routine

Speaking prompts:

- What instrument do you play or want to play?
- When do you practise or listen to music?

Use both tenses:

- “I usually play in the evening.”
“I’m learning to play the keyboard now.”



Grammar Rule – Using “Can” for Ability

Grammar Explanation:

“**Can**” = ability or skill

Structure: **Subject + can/can’t + base verb**

Positive:

- “I can play the violin.”

Negative:

- “She can’t play the trumpet.”

Question:

“Can you play an instrument?”

Tip: the word “to” should NOT be there after ‘can’ - the correct form is to say “can play,” NOT “can to play.”



Grammar Practice – Questions and Answers

Speaking Task:

Ask and answer:

- “Can you play the drums?”
- “What can your brother play?”
- “Can you read sheet music?”

Use full sentences to answer the questions.

Vocabulary Collocations – Play, Hit, Blow

Have a look at the correct verb + noun collocations:

Verb	Instrument
play	guitar, piano, violin
hit	drums, tambourine
blow	trumpet, flute

Speaking practice:

Can you use a verb and noun collocation from the list to form a sentence?

Example:

“He hits the drum.”

“She plays the cello.”



Sentence Building – Using Vocabulary & Grammar

Create sentences using these prompts:

- “I usually _____”
- “Right now I’m _____”
- “I can _____”
- “I can’t _____ but I want to learn.”



Pronunciation Focus – Stress & Syllables

Task: Clap out syllables and stress:

- gui-TAR
- Pl-a-no
- VI-o-lin
- DRUMS (1 syllable)
- TAM-bou-rine

Repeat together. Focus on clear vowel sounds and word endings.



Pronunciation Challenge – Tongue Twister

Task:

Say it slowly, then faster!

- “Peter’s perfect piano plays peaceful pieces perfectly.”

Focus on:

- /p/ sounds
- rhythm and pace
- confidence, not speed!



Listen and Repeat (Mini Dialogue)

Tutor reads – student repeats:

A: “Do you play an instrument?”

B: “Yes, I play the guitar.”

A: “Nice! Can you read music?”

B: “No, but I want to learn.”

Task: Use different instruments and swap roles

Speaking Task – Talk for One Minute

Prompt:

- “Talk for 1 minute about an instrument you like.”

Guide with:

- What it looks/sounds like
- Why you like it
- If you can play it or want to learn



Culture Corner – Instruments in the UK

Here are examples of some unique British instruments:

- **Bagpipes** – Scotland
- **Welsh harp** – Wales
- **Brass bands** – Northern England tradition

Discuss the following:

Are there any unique instruments in your country?

What instrument is traditionally played in your country/culture?

Creative Task – Invent an Instrument

If you could invent a new instrument, what would it look and sound like?

Use your imagination + grammar from today to describe.

Example:

“It would look like a drum and sound like a trumpet!”

Review Quiz

Name 3 string instruments.

What tense is this: “She is playing the flute”?

What verb goes with: “drum”?

Is it possible to use the word “can” in a question?

