

Lesson 1: C Major

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for Ukulele

Composing on the Ukulele
<https://jollyrogerukulele.com>

Melody First: Write a complete melody (with lyrics) using only these notes. You might pick out the tune "Joy to the World," or "Merrily We Roll Along," or "Frère Jacques" by ear to prove to yourself it's possible.

1

C D E F G A B C B A G F E D C

T
A
B

0 2 0 1 3 0 2 3 2 0 3 1 0 2 0

Chords First: Write a complete song with lyrics (no need to write out the melody notes) using only these chords. You'll find chords I, IV, V, V7 and vi to be the most helpful. You don't need to use them all.

2

C Dm Em F G G7 Am Bdim

C Major I D Minor ii E Minor iii F Major IV G Major V G Seven V7 A Minor vi B Diminished vii°

3 0 2 0 2 2 0 2
0 1 3 1 3 1 0 1
0 2 4 0 2 2 0 2
0 2 0 2 0 2 2 1

Lyrics and Ideas First: Using the chords above, and the poem below, create a song by inserting the chords and singing a melody. You can repeat words and ideas, you can add more words and ideas, you can lose some of the words and ideas, but the final product should maintain a recognizable theme of communication challenges with others. You might also consider extending the song to include a backstory (how did we come to meet Zed?) and a future story (what happens when Zed can't get his message across?).

There once was a Martian named Zed
with antennae all over his head.
He spoke quite a lot --
di-di-dash di-di-dot,
but nobody knew what he said.