

## **Guitar Chords**

Guitar chords are indicated by a guitar graphic of the frets. Frets are the metal bars on the neck of the guitar. A 'X' next to a string means 'don't pluck that string'. A 'O' next to a string means 'play it open' (no fingers on a string). Then simply follow the picture and place your fingers on the dots. XО



## **Guitar TAB**

Some guitar music is written in TAB (tablature). This literally tells you which string and which fret to place your fingers. Read it like a grid reference. The lowest line on TAB is the thickest string on the guitar (lowest pitch). There is a line for each string. The number refers to the fret number on that

string. The rhythm is usually placed above the TAB line, but not always. It is a more graphical way of writing music and less accurate than standard notation.

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## **Keyboard chords**

The general rule with chords on a keyboard is 'every other key'. Chords contain 3 notes, the 1st, the 3rd and the 5th notes of a scale. The best way to remember this is: PLAY - miss - PLAY - miss - PLAY

You can either hold a chord for the full length of the bar, or play it to a given rhythm. You can also play the chord as a 'broken chord', which involves playing the 3 notes, one at a time - breaking the chord up.

The bass note (the lowest note) can also be doubled up in the left hand to provide a wider range of pitch.

## Melody rhythms - use the syllables to create the rhythms



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Year 8 - Cycle 3 (Pop Songs & Band Skills)

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