



Home Learning 1 - 29/9/25  
Year 8  
Unit 1 - Blues Music



12 Bar Blues Chord Sequence

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C



C chord = C E G  
F chord = F A C  
G chord = G B D

KEYWORDS

Walking Bass	The bass part in the Blues 'walks' up the notes of a chord creating a 'walking bass' part
12 Bar Blues	Traditional blues style, using 3 chords over a 12-bar cycle.
Syncopation	When music is played on the <b>off-beat</b>
Improvisation	Music that is made up on the spot by a performer, often based on a given chord progression or set of notes
Swing Rhythm	When playing quavers, the first quaver is given a bit longer as it steals time from the second quaver to give the music a swinging feel.
Spiritual	Songs sung by slaves in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century with themes of yearning for freedom, to be lifted out of suffering and the belief that a higher power will help a person persevere in tough times.

- African slaves brought their musical traditions with them when they were forced to work as slaves in America.
- Early types of African American music included **spirituals** (religious songs using vocal harmony) and **work songs**.
- **Work songs** were sung rhythmically in time with the task being done. They used **call and response** in which phrases from a lead singer were followed by the other singers. The slaves would sing the songs that they used to sing in Africa. They sang as they were working to communicate with each other, ease their boredom and keep them going.
- They often sang about their feelings and their hopes that one day they would be free.

Home Learning - Read and use the information about Blues Music. You need to answer the questions below, and learn the information for a test next lesson (w/b 6th October).

1	How many bars are in the blues chord sequence?	
2	Write out the chords that are in the chords sequence:	
3	What notes are in the C chord?	
4	What is a 'walking bass'?	
5	What does 'syncopation' mean?	
6	What is a 'swing rhythm'?	
7	What were the two early types of African American music?	
8	What is a 'work song'?	
9	What does 'call and response' mean?	
10	What did the slaves often sing about?	

# Use of Voice

## The importance of your voice

The voice tells us so much about a person. Where they come from, their personality and how they're feeling.

An actor's voice needs versatility as it must be able to communicate a range of emotions. It must have clarity so that every word can be heard and enough strength and resonance to fill a theatre auditorium.

An actor also needs excellent breath control so that they won't run out of steam and power midway through a sentence. They must ensure the sound they make is well supported by steady air, so they're able to deliver their lines in a way which is sustained and controlled.

### Vocal elements to consider

There are a number of different vocal elements you should consider:

- Pitch – speaking in a high, low or natural voice.
- Pace – the speed with which you speak, eg the speed of response in an argument.
- Pause – a dramatic pause at a crucial moment is very effective in performance.
- Tone – your tone suggests your mood and your intention towards the listener, eg happy, sad.
- Volume – you must be audible to the audience but not shout at them!
- Accent – you need to consider the accent that will work for your character.
- Emphasis – this is the pressure on individual words that makes them stand out. There's a natural stress on syllables as we speak, such as the first syllable in 'cabbage'. But emphasis or stress for a particular effect is significant and can change the meaning of a sentence as well as the feeling behind it.
- Intonation – the rise and fall of the voice. There's a clear movement up when we ask questions for example. Intonation also helps us to say what we mean.



# Use of Voice

Complete the following definitions of **Voice** terms by placing the appropriate word at the start of each sentence.

Tone	Clarity	Intonation	Fluency
Pitch	Emphasis	Articulation	
Pace	Volume	Accent	

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is when sounds or words are stressed in speech
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the loudness or softness of the voice
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is "Clear pronunciation of words"
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the speed of speech
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is how clearly the words are understood
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the way in which speech is altered depending on who is being spoken to
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is "Natural flowing speech"
8. \_\_\_\_\_ "A way of speaking used in a local area or country":
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is the variation in the height or depth of the voice.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is changes in the rise and fall of the voice during or at the end of a sentence.