

Categorising Lesson Levels

LEARNER MUST KNOW 80-90% TO ACCOMPLISH LEVEL

This is not a strict rule but more of a guideline to lesson levels.

BEGINNERS

Beginner - Level 1 [Summary]

- Just started playing.
- Knows little to nothing on the guitar.
- Needs reminders on finger placements, holding a pick, hand positioning, parts of the guitar, string numbering etc.

Beginner - Level 1 [Theory]

- Knows little to nothing about music theory.

Beginner - Level 1 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Knows little to nothing about chords or rhythm.

Beginner - Level 1 [Melody & Riffs]

- Knows little to nothing about notation or TAB.
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Beginner - Level 2 [Theory]

- Has a basic understanding of music theory.
 - Musical alphabet
 - Tones & semitones
 - Note spacing *e.g. E & F and B & C are a 1 fret move*
 - Basic music symbols
 - whole note
 - half note
 - quarter note
 - treble cleff
 - music staff
 - repeat signs
- Knows the string names (EADGBE).

Beginner - Level 2 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Can play basic chords although needs visual reminders (A, C, D, E, G Major).
- Getting a grasp of basic 8th note rhythm but can't change chords quick enough to make a song distinguishable while using simple chords.

Beginner - Level 2 [Melody & Riffs]

- **NOTATION:** Understands how to read a music staff and simple notation but cannot play it fluently.
 - **TAB:** Understands how to read simple TAB.
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Beginner - Level 3 [Theory]

- Memorised all the string and note names within the 1st three frets.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| E | | -F- | | --- | | -G- | | --- |
| B | | -C- | | --- | | -D- | | --- |
| G | | --- | | -A- | | --- | | --- |
| D | | --- | | -E- | | -F- | | --- |
| A | | --- | | -B- | | -C- | | --- |
| E | | -F- | | --- | | -G- | | --- |

- Be able to work out (not memorise) any note on any string up to and beyond the 12th fret.

Beginner - Level 3 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Memorised all open chords and can play them out visual aids or prompting (A, C, D, E & G).
- Starting to change chords quick enough to make a simple chord pattern song recognisable.
- Can make the "E Shaped Bar Chord" (F Major) but not have to have it sounding clearly.

Beginner - Level 3 [Melody & Riffs]

- **NOTATION:** Can play a simple notation song fluently so that others can recognize the tune.
 - **TAB:** Can play a simple riff with no effects (hammering, sliding, bending, etc.)
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INTERMEDIATE

Intermediate - Level 1 [Theory]

- Knows all the notes on the thick E & A strings for bar chord, 5th chord & scale placement.

Intermediate - Level 1 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Can play and has memorised variations on open chords (Am, Dm, Em, A7, C7, D7, E7, G7).
- Can play the "E Shaped Bar Chord" (F Major) with a decent sustained sound (all six strings sounding out clearly).
- Can get a grasp on a basic 16th note rhythm playing it fairly smoothly.

Intermediate - Level 1 [Melody & Riffs]

- **NOTATION:** Can play a notation song fluently using the 1st 4 strings.
 - **TAB:** Understands TAB/Playing effects like hammering, sliding, pull offs & bending.
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Intermediate - Level 2 [Theory]

- Understands the theory of a Major Scale and has memorised its formula (TTSTTTS).
- Understands chord construction (The 1st, 3rd & 5th of any major scale makes the major chord).

Intermediate - Level 2 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Can change from an open chord to a bar chord easily with a clean and clear sound.
- Rarely has trouble learning new and different 16th note rhythms.
- Never has trouble learning new and different 8th note rhythms.
- Can work out an 8th note rhythm by ear and write it out in either notation or using up & down symbols or notation.

Intermediate - Level 2 [Melody & Riffs]

- Can play the Major Scale up & down fluently.
 - **NOTATION:** Can play a notation song fluently using the all 6 strings.
 - Can play a riff or solo fluently using playing effects like hammering, sliding, pull offs & bending.
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Intermediate - Level 3 [Theory]

- Understands the formula of the most common chord variations (minor, 7th, minor 7th, major 7th).

Intermediate - Level 3 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Can work out an 16th note rhythm by ear and write it out in either notation or using up & down symbols.
- Can transfer common chord variations (minor, 7th, minor 7th, major 7th) into bar chords up the next of the guitar.

Intermediate - Level 3 [Melody & Riffs]

- Can play the Minor & 5 Pentatonic scales up and down fluently.
 - Can improvise to a basic level (keeping in time and not playing bad notes).
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ADVANCED

Advanced - Level 1 [Theory]

- Understands the theory behind the Major, Minor & 5 Pentatonic scale.
- Knows how many sharps and flats are in any key signature.
- Understands the theory behind relative minors & majors.

Advanced - Level 1 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Can work out any rhythm pattern quickly by ear or visually.
- Can write out any rhythm pattern.
- Play rhythms using extra note hammer ons, pull aways or slides.

Advanced - Level 1 [Melody & Riffs]

- Has memorised the Major, Minor & 5 Pentatonic scale.
 - Can play scale exercise patterns fluent (should be able to see the scale note placing on the fretboard before you place the fingers down).
 - Can play a basic riff or solo with ease within a 1/2 hour.
 - Can place all notes of one kind (e.g. F) on every string, every fret in under 10 seconds (Octaves).
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Advanced - Level 2 [Theory]

- Can work out any diatonic scale (major/minor) by ear.
- Knows all the chords to use in any key (Major 1st, Minor 2nd, Minor 3rd, Major 4th, Major 5th, Minor 6th, Diminished 7th).
- Knows at a glance (or a least to work it out quickly) what every note on the guitar is.

Advanced - Level 2 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Fully understands the CAGED chord system on the guitar (major & minor).
- Can link chords with key correct bass runs.
- Can finger pick at least a few songs.

Advanced - Level 2 [Melody & Riffs]

- Has the ability to work out solos by ear on his/her own.
 - Can improvise around a Major, Minor & Pentatonic Scale without hitting too many off notes.
 - Can visually see what key another guitarist is soloing in and can jam easily with another player.
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Advanced - Level 3 [Theory]

- Understands the theory behind modes.
- Can construct any chord in any position on the fret board when given the chord formula (eg.1-3-5-7).
- Can transpose to and from any key (without capo).

Advanced - Level 3 [Chords & Rhythm]

- Knows all the scale notes around any of the 5 CAGED chord shapes (Major & Minor).

Advanced - Level 3 [Melody & Riffs]

- Can place a diatonic scale over every chord in the CAGED system.