



Listen to the blues song “Empty bed Blues” sung by Bessie Smith. What do you notice about the lyrics?

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Listen to the song again and follow the diagram below – can you hear the trombone filling in the gaps after the voice? The player is **improvising** these short passages and together with the voice they form what we call “**call and response**”.

I woke up this mornin'	with an awful aching head		
C / / / /	F / / / /	C / / / /	C7 / / / /
I woke up this mornin'	with an awful aching head		
F / / / /	F / / / /	C / / / /	C / / / /
My new man had left me	yessir room and empty bed		
G / / / /	F / / / /	C / / / /	G7 / / / /

The trombone is using special notes with which to improvise. These notes together are called the “**blues scale**”. They are as follows:

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In pairs, one person plays one of the 12 bar blues patterns learnt before, the other improvises using the blues scale over the top. When you’ve had a few goes swap over and be prepared to show what you’ve done to the class!







Now you have your lyrics, you can play the chords and can improvise using the blues scale!! You are now going to put together a blues song to perform and record. Write your ideas into the grid below.

Lyrics	V1			
	V2			
	V3			
Improv				
Chords				
	V1			
	V2			
	V3			
	V1			
	V2			
	V3			

Rough work:

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