

How to write a Song

A good song consists of many elements but we are going to focus on just a few of them.

Riff As you have learnt, a riff can be a short rhythmic pattern, a short chord sequence or a short bass line.

Step 1. Compose your own riff: rhythmic / chordal / bass

Step 2. Practise your riff.

Lyrics You need to think about a subject that interests you all. Make sure it is appropriate for school use and has a lot of key words that could rhyme!

Step 1. Write down the keywords and start making short phrases. Say them out loud until you get them into a rhythm.

Step 2. Mark the strong syllables by underlining them. These should be sung at the same time as the strong beats of your riff.

Step 3. Try singing the words with your riff and make any necessary changes.

Structure Most pop songs have the same structure:

Intro / Verse 1 / Chorus / Verse 2 / Chorus / Middle 8 / Chorus / Chorus / Ending

Step 1. Organise your ideas so far into verses and choruses, remember the catchiest part of your song should be the chorus.

Step 2. Compose linking ideas to get from one section to another.

Step 3. Change your riff for the Middle 8 which may be like an instrumental.

Step 4. Practise the Intro and Ending carefully! (People always remember the beginning and end of a piece!)

Extras Now you have almost finished see if you can add in any finishing touches like: backing vocals, extra rhythms, other backing chords, expression.