

Tuning a Guitar... ARGH!

Tuning your guitar can be VERY frustrating! The good news is that just because you can't tune doesn't mean you can't start playing. When you are just getting started on guitar, the BEST way to tune it is by using an electronic tuner. This is a machine that will tell you when each string is in tune. You can get an electronic tuner for about \$20. The NEXT BEST way to tune your guitar is to get someone else who already knows how to do it for you. However, here's how to tune your guitar if no one else is around and you have no tuner.

When you press down on the 5th fret of a string, it should sound like the string right next to it. For example, when you press down on the 5th fret on the "E" string, it should sound like the open "A" string just next to it. If they don't sound alike, try adjusting the tuning machine of the "A" string up or down until both strings sound the same.

Next, when you press down on the 5th fret on the "A" string, it should sound like the open "D" string just next to it. Continue across the strings like that, but when you go to tune the "B" string, press down on the 4th fret of the "G" string, NOT the 5th fret.

This drawing shows how to tune. The white circles show where to press and the red lines show which string the fretted note should sound like.

Learning to tune a guitar today is easier than ever, thanks to the internet. Little Kids Rock provides an online tuner through our website at www.LittleKidsRock.org/thehang/tuner and there are lots of other great tools for learning how to do this out there as well. If you search 'how to tune a guitar' on YouTube you can scroll through mountains of video demonstrations. Watch several of them to get a couple of opinions and figure out which way of thinking about tuning appeals to you most. Just by watching videos alone our ears begin to get a great perspective on how tuning works and sounds.

