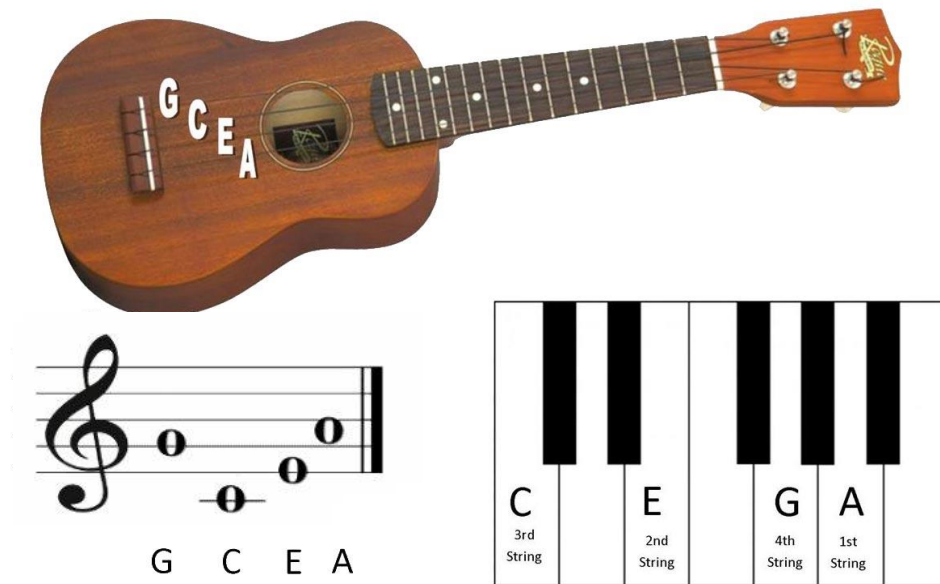


## How to tune a ukulele:

There are a couple of different ways you can do this, and some are easier than others—I'm going to start with the easy one, and then offer some other solutions in case you aren't able to download an app.

Before you can tune your ukulele, you need to know what the notes of the open strings are. Remember when you hold a ukulele, it is held flat against your tummy, not like a table. The body of the instrument should be on your right, with your left hand holding the neck. We are going to start with the string closest to your head or the ceiling—that is the G string. The next one down is C, then E, then finally the string closest to the floor is A. It's also the highest sounding string. You might want to write the notes down somewhere, or print out the packet on my teacher website, so you can remember the note names. You're going to need to know them every time you tune.



When you first get your instrument, you're going to have to tune a lot. The more you play your ukulele, the better it stays in tune when you aren't playing it. Think of your instrument like a new pair of running shoes, or a baseball glove—it needs to be broken in a little bit before it feels really comfortable, and the only way to do that is play it!

The easiest and most accurate way to tune your ukulele is to use a tuner app. There are lots of free ones, but my favorite is called TuneFor Ukulele Tuner. I like this one because it's easy to see if your string needs to get higher or lower. When I open the app, I want to click on the tuner at the bottom. Then, pluck your strings one at a time. If I start with the first string, the G note should be lighting up on the app. Your goal is to get the lines to show up green right in the middle. If they are red on the left side, your string needs to be tightened.



To tighten a string, very slowly twist the tuning peg for that string a little bit at a time, checking with your app each time. Don't do big twists—a little bit can make a huge difference in your sound. Careful not to tighten it too much, they can break! Likewise, if your app is showing the red lines on the right, your string is too tight. Slowly and a little bit at a time, loosen the string by turning the peg in the other direction. It might take some trial and error when you first begin to tune to figure out which way to turn the pegs—get a parent to help you if you're struggling. Even if they don't know how to tune the ukulele, they can help you determine which way to turn the peg to make the string tighter or looser.

You're going to repeat this process for all of the strings. In the beginning, this is going to take a long time, and you'll have to do it every time you practice! But as you keep going, two things will happen—you'll get faster at it, and your ukulele will start to stay in tune on its own better. However, even if you play every day, you will need to tune occasionally. It's best to check before you start just to make sure.

If you don't have access to a device to download an app, there are some good youtube videos that will play the sound of the string for you. The downside to these videos is they can't hear your string, so it's up to you to listen carefully and decide if your string is too high or too low. I've listed some good videos here and on my website that you can use.

[Best Online Ukulele Tuner](#)

[Uke Tuner](#)

Lastly, if you don't have access to internet or an app, but you have a piano or other instrument at home (not toy instruments, they aren't typically in tune), you can use those instruments to play the notes of the strings, and tighten or loosen your strings to match them. Make sure you memorize or write down what the note names of your strings are!

