

Tuning.

This time listening is harder because the piano has a different tone colour or timbre.

The "secret" to tuning is to LISTEN. This seems obvious but you have got to listen hard. What you should be listening to is the PITCH of the notes. Pitch means how high or low a note sounds. To help you focus your listening to the pitch you should hum or sing the notes. Hum the note that is your guide note and then hum your string. Listen to your hum - did you go higher or lower when you hummed your string?

Be careful of not listening to the colour or timbre of the piano notes.

Remember if you only listen to the colour it might appear that the piano sounds 'higher' or 'lower' even if the pitches are in tune

When listening, play the guide note on the piano a few times to let the pitch sink in and then play the string your checking a few times to let the pitch sink in. Remember to hum or sing the pitches - this will focus your listening.

When you have to change your string you must keep listening. Make sure to play the string so can hear it as you change it. You can only gauge the change of tuning by listening to the pitch of the string and not by how far you turn the tuning peg. Bring the string into tune with a smooth motion towards the correct pitch.

When your string is close to being in tune with the guide note you will hear the two notes start to "beat". Beating means you will hear a "wavy" and "wooh-wooh" sound. Beating will only happen between two pitches and not just one. Beating also only happens when the two notes are very close in pitch - when there is less than a semitone or 1 fret difference. Hearing beating gives you the clue that you are close to being in tune. You still have to decide if your string is flat or sharp. The speed of the beating will give you a clue to how far flat or sharp you are. The faster the beating the further apart the two notes are. As you bring your string into tune the beating will slow down. When your string is in tune the beating will stop, and it will sound as though only one note is being played.

Think of these following steps. ALL THE TIME LISTENING HARD! :

(a) Play the guide note.

(b) Comparing. Is your string in tune or out of tune? If it's out of tune is it flat or sharp?

(c) Adjusting (if necessary). When adjusting be sure to play the string so you can hear it change, and then come into tune. Adjust the tuning peg smoothly, not in jerky movements. Keep listening.

Use these notes on the piano to tune your guitar.

String 6 E = third white key from the left.

String 5 A = first 3 black key grouping - white note to the left of the 3rd black key.

String 4 D = second 2 black key grouping - white note in the middle of the two black keys.

String 3 G = second 3 black key grouping - white note to the right of the 1st black key.

String 2 B = second 3 black key grouping - white note to the right of the 3rd black key.

String 1 E = third 2 black key grouping - white note to the right of the 2nd black key.