

# Grade 4 Lesson 1



## COMPOSE

Students improvise a melody on a tuned instrument using the first five notes of the A minor scale.

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### Five Notes

A B C D E

This lesson is a very gentle introduction to composition, for those students who may not have done composition before. Those students coming from previous Fun Music Company curriculum modules in grades 2 or 3 will be familiar with this type of lesson.

Children will improvise over a simple scale: the first five notes of the A minor scale.

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Don't play here      Improve your tune

Break   Break   Play   Play   Play   Play

Use the backing beat below to practice your improvisation

We have provided a backing beat track which has two bars of rest and four bars of playing. It should be quite obvious in the provided track where to play and when not to, but this is an important thing to focus on early in the lesson.

First, before going to the instruments make sure that the children have this idea. Have them play body percussion, tap the floor or whatever you like along with the track, making sure that they understand when to play, and when NOT to play. This is critical for a successful improvisation session on tuned percussion.

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### When to play

Don't play here      Improve your tune

Break   Break   Play   Play   Play   Play

You can have all the children improvise simultaneously, but if that is too unmanageable in your room have them do it in small groups, and eventually one student at a time.

Encourage them to watch each other and pick up on each other's ideas. This teaches the idea of improvising with a view to creating smaller, replicable patterns, a critical step in composition.

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### Improvisation on five notes

Improvise your own tunes using the five notes A, B, C, D and E

Use the backing beat below to practice your improvisation

After you have watched the video click through to this screen to have on while you are doing the activity.

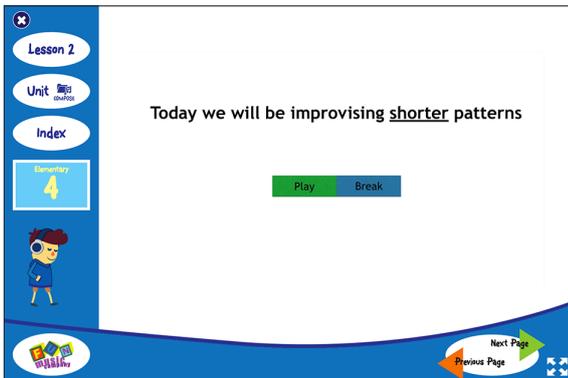
You may choose to assess this step and sign their achievement record page.

# Grade 4 Lesson 2



## COMPOSE

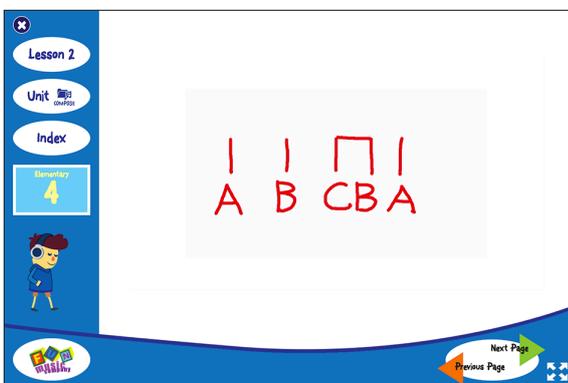
Students create a one bar, four beat melodic pattern and learn to notate it with stick notation.



In this lesson the students expand on the ideas created in their first lesson, improvising over the first five notes of the A minor scale.

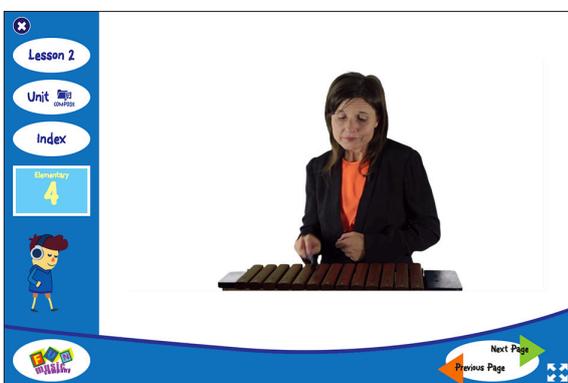
They start by practising with our provided backing track, and this time they only improvise for one bar, or four beats at a time.

First watch the video through, and you can discuss how you can do it.



Again, practice the idea of playing at the right time by practising all together with body percussion on the floor.

Then have them go to instruments, practising along with the track a few times. Again, practise your own classroom management techniques with this. You can do it all together, in smaller groups, or one at a time.



Then come back to the floor, watch the later part of the video about notation again and have them get their own pencils and books and go to the instruments to create their own.

It is a good point to re-emphasise the reason WHY we learn music notation: so that we can communicate musical ideas to other people.

Remember perfection is not the goal here. We don't want to obsess over the music theory element. Yes, by all means use this as an opportunity to teach about note values and rests, but don't let that become the focus.



Click through to this screen to use when doing this activity. It has the backing beat there for you and a reminder of which notes to use in the scale.

Note that this screen also has our 'scratch board' present, so if you have a touch screen you should be able to click the pencil and write things below the music player.