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Perfect Pitch - Level 18



Is it possible to think a lick in your head and then play it exactly how you thought about it? In most cases it is - however this can take years of practice. Some people say you are either born with perfect pitch or you're not. We at 'My Guitar Lessons' believe that everyone has the potential to develop this amazing skill, it just takes a lot of practice and work. And this is often how some of the best song writers come up with riffs, licks and entire songs.

So what is perfect pitch? Quite simply it's being able to hum a note in your head and to play that exact note on your guitar to match it.

Exercise 1;

You 'My Guitar Lessons' tutor will turn their back to you and play a random note. All you need to do is play exactly the same note in reply. Think of whether it sounds thin or thick, giving you a clue to what string it's on. If it's low or high, helping you with if it's at the bottom or top of the fret board. This can take some practice and is worth doing for a few minutes at every lesson until you can get at least 5 out of 10 correct.

Exercise 2;

This should only be done if you can get at least 50% correct in exercise 1. Your 'My Guitar Lessons' tutor will again turn their back and play 2 notes together on the same string and no more than a tone apart. Again try to duplicate the notes by using the skills you have developed in the former exercise but also think about the pitch difference between the 2 notes - is the second higher or lower than the first and is it a tone or semi-tone difference. Again practice this every week until you can get at least 5 out of 10 correct.

Exercise 3;

We assume you know the tune to 'God Save The Queen', the British National Anthem. Start on the bottom E string on the 3rd fret (in G) and only use that one string to play it on. Once you can do it twice in a row with no mistakes then add the A string, so you start on the bottom E but any notes above the A note must be played on the A string. Once you can do this successfully twice in a row add the D string and again any notes above the D note on the A string should be played on the D string.

Exercise 4;

Once you have mastered exercise 3 try starting on the G note on the A string (10th fret) and play the tune there - this time you're allowed to use all the strings if you want to.

Exercise 5;

Find every G note on the fretboard up to the 12th fret and play 'God Save The Queen' from there.

Exercise 6;

Do the same exercise but try some other basic tunes like; twinkle twinkle little star, Humpty Dumpty and I hear thunder.

Exercise 7;

Try the same exercise but hum a short lick out loud to your tutor and then duplicate it on your guitar. Start with just 2 notes, and build up from there. See how many notes you can hum before you start making mistakes.