

play and sing your first song on guitar

The easiest and most effective way to start playing guitar and singing at the same time is to use the tune of the song, also known as the **melody**, as your guide.

This approach works best because there is rhythm built in to each melody, and dialing into it helps better connect your strum to the unique characteristics of each song.

To start, let's learn how to play and sing "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Instructions

1. First, before you touch the guitar, sing the song as you know it, at least in your head. Take special note where all the little pauses are.
2. Then, using the "Mary Had a Little Lamb" song chart, place a G chord and sing the song exactly as you know it while strumming **a single downstroke as you sing each syllable**. Work slowly, change chords on the appropriate syllable and don't play anything during the natural pauses of the tune. Don't rush the pauses. There should be no difference between how you sing it in your head and how you sing it with the guitar, except the fact that you're adding the instrument.

For example, here's how the first line should go:

(Using a G chord, play a downstroke as you sing) **Ma-** (then...)
(Stay on G and play a downstroke as you sing) **-ry** (then...)
(Stay on G and play a downstroke as you sing) **had** (then...)
(Stay on G and play a downstroke as you sing) **a** (then...)
(Stay on G and play a downstroke as you sing) **lit-** (then...)
(Stay on G and play a downstroke as you sing) **-tle** (then...)
(Stay on G and play a downstroke as you sing) **lamb** (wait for the pause, and then...)
(Switch to D and play a downstroke as you sing) **lit-** (then...)
(Stay on D and play a downstroke as you sing) **-tle** (then...)
(Stay on D and play a downstroke as you sing) **lamb** (wait for the pause, and then...)
(Switch back to G and play a downstroke as you sing) **lit-** (etc.)

3. Continue on to the end of the song. Repeat until comfortable.

This **one downstroke per syllable method** will work with any song, and will help you get up and running with playing songs on the guitar quickly.

"Mary Had A Little Lamb"

G

Mary had a little lamb

D

G

little lamb, little lamb

Mary had a little lamb

D

G

Her fleece was white as snow