

Introduction - Standard Tuning Basics

Tune your guitar to standard tuning. You'll want to start from the low E string, and work your way up to the highest string. Here is how each string should sound in the end, click to hear the pitch:

Credit: <https://www.theguitarlesson.com/online-guitar-tools/online-guitar-tuner/>

Tuning

Being in tune is one of the quickest ways to making you sound better and is the first thing that should be addressed when using a guitar. Fender Tune is an app that will tell you whether or not your guitar is in tune, but here are some additional tips that will help you get in tune better:

Tune the Sixth String First

The sixth string, or low E, has the most tension. It can affect the pitch of the other strings when changed because of the added or decreased tension it creates on the neck and other parts of your guitar.

Always Tune Up

Tune each string by tuning down slightly, then tuning back up to reach the note you need to hit. Adding tension rather than removing tension helps keep the string more secure and in tune as you play.

Wait Until the String Settles

When you first pluck a string, the pitch goes high at first, then it settles into the real note you are playing. The tuner will react to the very first thing it hears. Pluck the string, hold for a beat, then read what the tuner says after that.

Listen

Make sure you listen to the pitch of the note as you tighten and loosen the string. This will help train your ear and also aid you in making the small adjustments you need.

Keep It Quiet

Limit outside noise and interference, because the tuner cannot distinguish the notes of your guitar from other sounds it hears.

ELECTRIC TIP: Adjust Your Pickup Switch

When tuning an electric guitar, be sure to set the pickup selector switch to the far left. This helps to minimize any frequencies that could interfere with the process.

Guitar Harmonics

String	Note	Frequency (Hz)	Rounded up
6	E	82.407	82
5	A	110.000	110
4	D	146.832	147
3	G	195.998	196
2	B	246.942	247
1	E	329.628	330

Tuning Tips

- 1. Tune upwards** - The correct method of tuning is to go a bit below the desired pitch (loosen the string), then go up to the right pitch (tighten the string). Doing this will help avoid the string getting out of tune, and becoming flat during play. Your final twist of the peg should always make the string tighter. Of all these guitar tuning tips, this is most important since so many people get it wrong.
- 2. Guitar strings stretch and shrink** when exposed to heat and cold. Avoid leaving your guitar in extreme temperature conditions, or if you do, make sure you retune before you start playing again.
- 3. Once you start playing at gigs where you play lots of songs**, check your guitar's tuning between songs. Most effect pedals have built in tuners for this purpose, which comes in very handy. There's nothing worse than a "professional" musician who is out of tune.
- 4. After getting new strings**, you'll need to tune more frequently until your strings stretch into place.
- 5. If your electric guitar has a tremolo arm fitted onto it**, you'll need to tune more regularly, as the tremolo stretches your strings when in use.
- 6. If you are tuning in a noisy environment**, use a tuner that can be plugged into your guitar. Most good electronic tuners have both an internal microphone and the ability to be connected to a guitar with a jack cable.
- 7. Turn your tuning pegs carefully.** If you play your guitar regularly, you'll only need to slightly retune without larger twists of the pegs.
- 8. Don't leave your guitar with its neck resting on the ground.** The tuning pegs will invariably brush up against the surface and turn by accident. Get a guitar stand!
- 9. It's best practice to tune your guitar every time you pick it up.**
- 10. Tuning with your ear is good** and will help you develop a musician's ear, so once you've played enough and can hear pitch alterations, first tune by ear, then maybe double check with an electric tuner.