

Tuning the Guitar

The guitar has six strings each tuned to a different note. Although it is possible to tune it by reference to a tuning fork, pitch pipes, electronic keyboard, another guitar (already in tune!) or other instrument by using your ears, in practice, nowadays it is a good idea to invest in an electronic guitar tuner. They cost anything from about £15.00 upwards. It will make life a lot easier for you. This is not to say that you should rely only on the indication on the tuner. You are after all playing a musical instrument and will need to develop your ears anyway, so you should be listening as well as watching the lights or the needle on the tuner.

The six strings are each described by both a number and a note name. The highest pitch string (the thinnest) is called the 1st string. The lowest pitched string (the thickest) is therefore the 6th string. Strangely enough the 1st and 6th string are both tuned to an E, but not the same E! Confused? You should find it all made clear as you progress.

Below is a diagram of the notes the open strings are tuned to. You should learn this by heart. Try to think of a sentence whose words' initials give the note names of the strings, eg **E**very **A**rtist **D**raws **G**ood **B**ig **E**ggs (from lowest to highest).

E A D G B E
6th 5th 4th 3rd 2nd 1st

