

Lyric Formatting Mastery Guide

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Core Formatting Principles

What Are Meta Tags?

Meta tags are keyword-style markers placed inside square brackets [] to help guide how Suno AI structures, performs, and styles your song during Custom Lyrics generation. They're not strict commands, but rather influence cues that shape arrangement, emotion, and instrumentation — especially in early sections.

Essential Rules

- Always use square brackets: [Tag: Value] format
- Meta tags only work in Custom Lyrics mode
- Place early in your input for maximum impact
- Use 2-3 instrument tags per track for best results

Meta Tags & Brackets

Song Structure Tags

The most effective structure is: [Intro] → [Verse] → [Chorus] → [Verse] → [Bridge] → [Chorus] → [Outro]

Core Structure Tags:

- [Intro] - Sets the opening theme
- [Verse] - Defines the storytelling section (usually rhythmic and restrained)
- [Chorus] - Creates the song's catchiest part (more melody and energy)
- [Bridge] - Adds a unique contrasting section
- [Pre-Chorus] - Bridge from verse to chorus, builds energy
- [Outro] - Ends the song smoothly

Advanced Structure Tags:

- [Build] - Increases intensity leading to chorus/drop
- [Drop] - For EDM and electronic genres
- [Breakdown] - Quiet section with minimal instrumentation
- [Crescendo] - Gradually building intensity
- [Break] - Instrumental pause or minimal section

Genre, Mood & Instrumentation Tags

Genre Tags:

- [Genre: Rock], [Genre: Jazz], [Genre: Hip-Hop]
- [Genre: Orchestral Rock], [Genre: Synthwave]

Mood Tags:

- [Mood: Melancholic], [Mood: Intense], [Mood: Uplifting]
- [Energy: High], [Energy: Medium], [Energy: Low]

Instrument Tags (use 2-3 max):

- [Instrument: Piano], [Instrument: Electric Guitar (Distorted)]
- [Instrument: Strings (Legato)], [Instrument: Drums (Heavy)]
- [Instrument: Synth], [Instrument: Saxophone]

Vocal Customization Tags

Vocalist Types:

- [Vocalist: Female], [Vocalist: Male]
- [Vocalist: Male, Baritone], [Vocalist: Female, Soprano]

Vocal Effects:

- [Vocal Effect: Echo], [Vocal Effect: Reverb]
- [Vocal Effect: Delay], [Vocal Effect: Distortion]
- [Harmony: Yes] - Adds backing vocals

Creative Vocal Tags:

- [Whispered Vocals], [Screaming Vocals]
- [Angelic Voice], [Echoing Vocals]
- [Whispered Backing]

Advanced Formatting Techniques

Creative Bracket Uses

More creative uses include: [Flute solo intro], [Increase intensity], [Crescendo], [Starts out quietly], [Whispering vocals], [Screaming vocals]

Dynamic Control:

- [Dynamic: Crescendo] - Gradually building
- [Dynamic: Forte] - Loud and powerful
- [Starts out quietly]
- [Increase intensity]

Instrumental Directions:

- [Guitar Solo], [Piano Solo], [Saxophone Solo]
- [Flute solo intro]
- [Instrumental] - No vocals

Special Effects:

- [Catchy Hook], [Emotional Bridge], [Powerful Outro]
- [Radio-friendly]

Production Quality Tags

For advanced users, you can include production-style tags:

- [PRODUCTION: Lo-fi aesthetic, Warm tones, Soft compression]
- [DYNAMICS: Gentle throughout, Gradual builds and releases]
- [EMOTIONS: Peacefulness, Contemplation, Tranquillity]

Sound Effects & Vocal Emphasis

Asterisk Sound Effects

You can add sound effects by enclosing them in asterisks. For example: *gunshots* - This might make the AI incorporate the sound of gunshots into the song.

Popular Sound Effects:

- *rainfall*, *thunder*, *wind sounds*
- *vinyl crackle*, *radio static*
- *crowd cheering*, *applause*
- *café ambience*, *ocean waves*
- *soft whispers*, *distant thunder*
- *gunshots*, *bell ringing*

Stacking Effects: You can combine multiple effects: *wind sounds* and *soft raindrops*

Capitalization for Vocal Emphasis

Placing a line of lyrics in ALL CAPS with a punctuation like "!" or "?" can modify the voice tone, making it louder or distinct from the main vocals.

Examples:

- I'M NEVER LOOKING BACK! - Creates passionate, intense vocals
- WHO ARE YOU? - Questioning tone with emphasis

- Mix caps with regular text for whisper-to-yell effects

Parentheses for Layering

Adding words in parentheses (like this) can create background layers, harmonies, or instrumental effects that make your song richer.

Uses:

- Sing along (harmony here) - Background harmonies
- (This is our story, beginning to end) - Spoken word sections
- Love me tender (echo: tender) - Echo effects

Song Structure Optimization

Optimal Song Flow

Every part of a song—whether it's the verse, pre-chorus, chorus, bridge, or hook—serves a distinct purpose. These elements carry specific moods, intensities, and placements within the song's overall flow.

Professional Structure Examples:

Pop Song:

[Intro] Soft acoustic guitar
[Verse] Emotional lyrics, storytelling
[Pre-Chorus] Building energy
[Chorus] Anthemic vocals, memorable hook
[Verse] Continue story
[Bridge] Contrasting section
[Chorus] Return to hook
[Outro] Gentle fade-out

EDM Track:

[Intro] Atmospheric synths
[Build-Up] Tension-building risers
[Drop] Heavy bass drop
[Breakdown] Quiet piano section
[Build-Up] Second rise
[Drop] Main drop
[Outro] Smooth fade

Respecting Song Moods

If you input verse lyrics, but the timing or melody is more suited to a chorus—something powerful or uplifting—Suno will likely recognize the mismatch and adjust, replacing your verse with something that fits the melodic intensity.

Key Principles:

- **Verses:** Quieter, storytelling, less intense
- **Choruses:** Powerful, memorable, more intense
- **Bridges:** Contrasting, offering departure from main themes
- **Pre-Chorus:** Building energy toward main hook

Character Limits & Optimization

Understanding Suno's Character Limits

- **Custom Mode:** 3,000 characters maximum per generation
- **Simple Mode:** 200 characters for style description
- **Extend Feature:** 3,000 characters per continuation

Optimization Strategies

Compress Without Losing Impact:

- Use abbreviations in brackets: [Intro] instead of [Introduction]
- Remove redundant descriptors
- Combine similar tags: [Genre: Rock, Energy: High]

Structure for Efficiency:

- Place all meta tags at the start
- Use line breaks strategically
- Remove excessive whitespace

When to Split: If your song exceeds 3,000 characters:

- End first section with [Instrumental Break] or [Bridge]
- Use "Extend" feature for continuation
- Keep consistent style tags in both sections

V4/V4.5 New Features & Tools

V4 Enhancements

Improved Audio Quality:

- Higher fidelity output (44.1kHz)
- Better stereo separation
- Clearer vocal articulation

Enhanced Understanding:

- More accurate genre interpretation
- Better adherence to structure tags
- Improved lyric pronunciation

New Capabilities:

- Longer generation times (up to 2 minutes)
- Better instrumental variety
- More natural transitions

V4.5 Updates

Vocal Improvements:

- More natural phrasing
- Better breath control simulation
- Enhanced emotional expression

Style Control:

- More precise genre blending
- Better dynamic range
- Improved instrument balance

Recommended Tags for V4/V4.5:

- [Clear Vocals] - Ensures vocal clarity
- [Professional Production] - Polished sound
- [Modern Mix] - Contemporary mixing style

Advanced Production Techniques

Layering Multiple Elements

Vocal Layering:

Main melody (lead vocals)
Background harmonies (backing vocals)
Spoken word sections (vocal effect)

Instrumental Layering:

- Specify multiple instruments with different roles
- Use dynamic tags to control intensity
- Combine acoustic and electronic elements

Creating Professional Transitions

Smooth Transitions:

- [Build] before chorus

- [Breakdown] before bridge
- [Fade Out] for endings

Hard Transitions:

- [Drop] for EDM
- [Stop] for dramatic pause
- [Cut] for abrupt changes

Genre Blending

Effective Combinations:

- [Genre: Electronic Rock] - Synths + guitars
- [Genre: Jazz Hip-Hop] - Jazz instruments + rap flow
- [Genre: Orchestral Pop] - Strings + pop vocals

Avoid Conflicting Tags:

- Don't mix opposing energy levels
- Keep mood tags consistent
- Limit to 2-3 genre descriptors

Professional Tips & Best Practices

Writing Effective Lyrics

Structure Basics:

- Verse: 4-8 lines, storytelling
- Chorus: 2-4 lines, memorable hook
- Bridge: 2-4 lines, contrast

Rhyme Schemes:

- AABB - Simple, catchy
- ABAB - Classic structure
- ABCB - Modern feel

Syllable Matching:

- Keep similar syllable counts per line
- Match rhythm patterns between verses
- Maintain flow in fast sections

Maximizing AI Understanding

Clear Instructions:

- Be specific with genre tags
- Use standard musical terminology
- Avoid ambiguous descriptors

Consistent Formatting:

- Use same bracket style throughout
- Maintain consistent line breaks
- Keep structure tags clear

Testing and Iteration:

- Generate multiple versions
- Compare different tag combinations
- Refine based on results

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Overcomplicated Tags:

- Too many genre descriptors
- Conflicting mood tags
- Excessive special effects

Poor Structure:

- Missing section breaks
- Unclear transitions
- Inconsistent patterns

Lyrical Issues:

- Inconsistent syllable counts

- Forced rhymes
- Unclear pronunciation

Advanced Workflow Tips

Pre-Production:

1. Write complete lyrics first
2. Mark structure sections
3. Add meta tags strategically
4. Review character count

During Generation:

1. Monitor first 30 seconds closely
2. Use skip if not matching vision
3. Save successful generation settings
4. Document what works

Post-Production:

1. Use extend for longer songs
2. Combine best sections
3. Maintain consistent style
4. Export at highest quality

Resource Management

Credit Optimization:

- Test with shorter generations first
- Use skip early if not matching
- Save successful prompts for reuse
- Batch similar song generations

Version Control:

- Name generations systematically
- Track which prompts work best
- Document successful tag combinations
- Keep library organized

Final Notes

This guide covers the essential techniques for creating professional-quality songs with Suno AI. Remember:

- **Experimentation is key** - Try different combinations
- **Learn from results** - Analyze what works
- **Stay updated** - New features are added regularly
- **Share knowledge** - Community insights improve everyone's results

For the latest updates and community discussions, visit the Suno Discord and Reddit communities.

Happy creating!