

# Lyric Formatting Mastery Guide

## Table of Contents

1. Core Formatting Principles
2. Meta Tags & Brackets
3. Advanced Formatting Techniques
4. Sound Effects & Vocal Emphasis
5. Song Structure Optimization
6. Character Limits & Optimization
7. V4/V4.5 New Features & Tools
8. Advanced Production Techniques
9. Professional Tips & Best Practices

## 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:

1. End first section with [Instrumental Break] or [Bridge]
  2. Use "Extend" feature for continuation
  3. 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!