

Q. Why do I need to learn how to pitch a note to the music?

If you want to learn to sing or play an instrument it is essential to be able to sing the correct notes in the right place (and at the right time!). Ideally a singer should be able to recognise the key being played and sing any one of the notes within the chord or scale without sounding sharp or flat (unless that is the effect you require for the song!!).

Q. My friend can do this and she hasn't had lessons - but I can't - why is this?

Some people are born with an excellent 'ear' for music and are naturally talented, but most singers need to learn and practice the art before it becomes second nature.

Q. How can I tell if I am on pitch or not?

Record yourself singing along to a song that you know well and listen back to your efforts - are the notes you sing melodic, are they exactly the same as the singers or do they sound harsh, sharp or flat? If the latter is the case then you are not singing 'on pitch'. You can also try recording yourself singing our [online scales](#). If you are singing in key then the notes you sing will sound like the notes that are played.

Q. What is 'Perfect Pitch'?

This is the term used to describe someone who can sing (or play) the notes (or chords) along with the music without reading the sheet music. It is also used to describe the ability to sing any note on request without hearing the note played by an instrument. Some people are born with this ability - others need to learn and practise to become competent.

Q. I can't Pitch - am I Tone Deaf?

Unlikely - very few people are really 'Tone Deaf' which is the term used to describe someone who appears to lack the ability to differentiate between one note (or chord) from another - This is extremely rare! Most people who think they are 'Tone Deaf' just need to learn how to listen and practice their pitching skills. It takes some people longer than others but it CAN be learnt.

Q. How can I learn to pitch correctly?

The key to recognizing notes, chords and intervals is repeated listening and singing back. Ideally you need a teacher to help you identify how you are progressing but there are exercises provided below for you to practice although you need an instrument to do them. Alternatively you can try the online Ear Training programs or download pitch recognition software listed below.

Pitch related Q & A in the Frequently Asked Questions Section