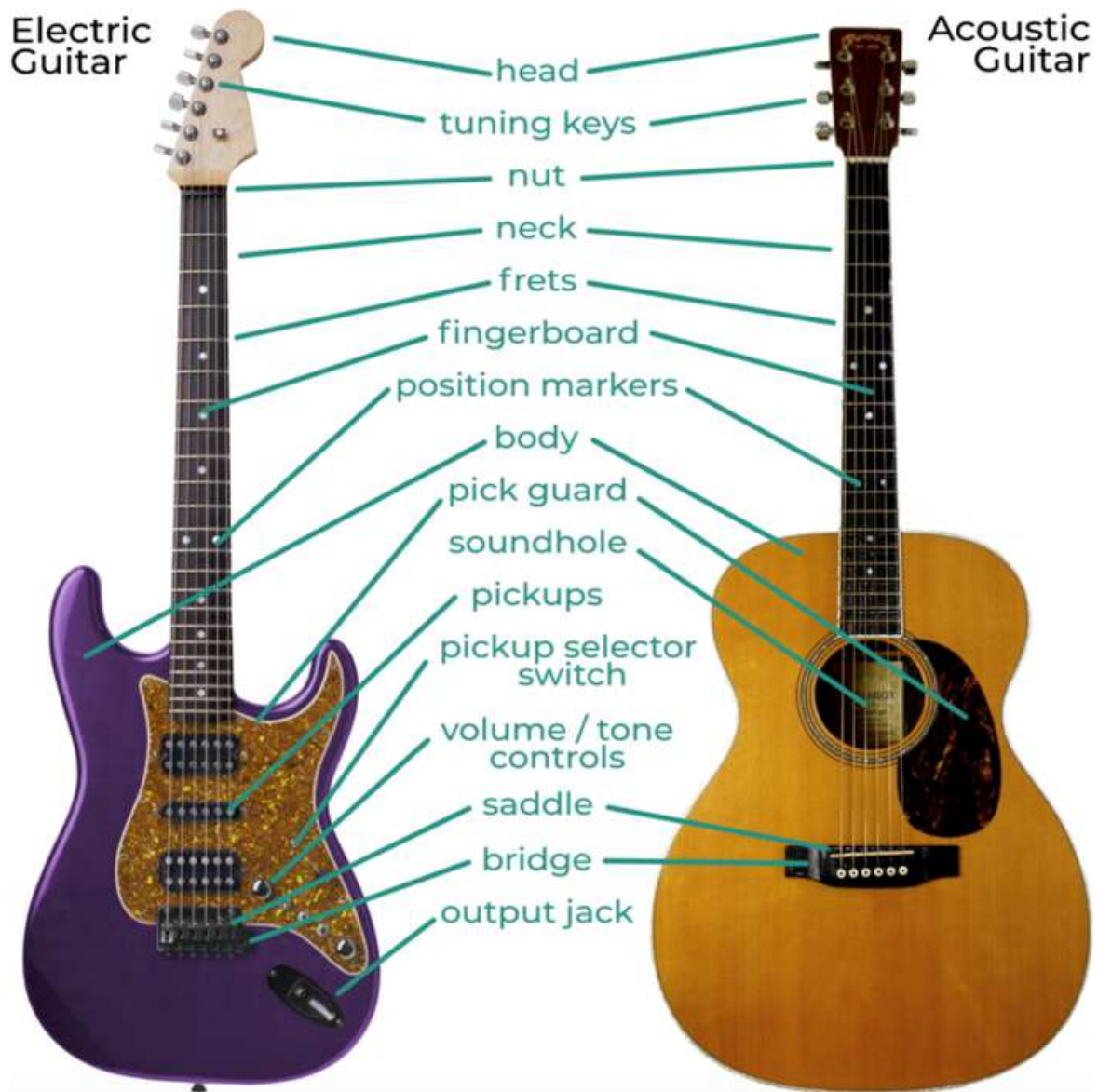


# Introduction

## Guitar part names



It is a good advice to start by knowing the names of the different parts of the instrument you are going to play with. At the very beginning, it is good enough to know at least the following vocabulary : the **head**, the **neck**, the **frets**, the **body** and the **bridge**. These are needed because you might encounter these words throughout the course. The rest of the vocabulary should come naturally with time.

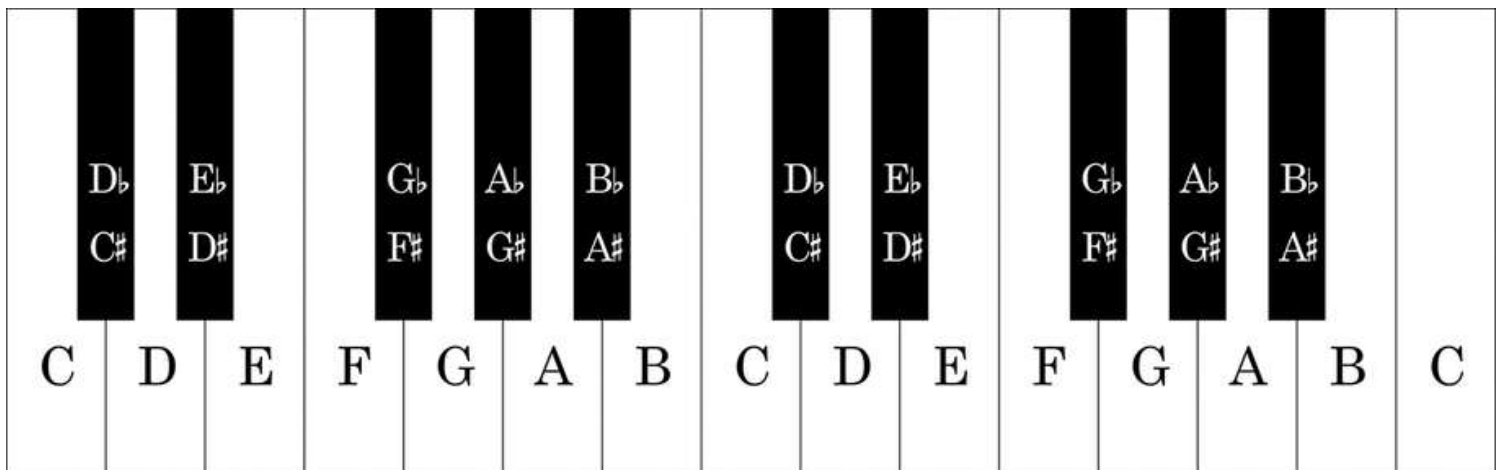
# Basic Music Notations

**Music alphabet** : You need to have some basic knowledge about music in order to start the course. You need to know the music alphabet composed of only 7 notes : A, B, C, D, E, F and G. This is the English notation. In French it would be respectively La, Si, Do, Ré, Mi, Fa, Sol.

There are however **12 different notes** you can actually play : A, A<sup>#</sup>/B<sup>b</sup>, B, C, C<sup>#</sup>/D<sup>b</sup>, D, D<sup>#</sup>/E<sup>b</sup>, E, F, F<sup>#</sup>/G<sup>b</sup>, G, G<sup>#</sup>/A<sup>b</sup>. Once you reach the thirteenth notes, this is the same note as the 1st but in a higher frequency : the 13th notes is called the **octave** of the 1st. This applies for all notes separated by 12 semitones apart.

The sign <sup>b</sup> next to a note is used to indicate that the actual note is shifted one semitone down (in the lower register). The sign <sup>#</sup> next to a note is the contrary, it is used to indicate that the actual note is shifted one semitone up (in the higher register). E<sup>b</sup> would be called E **flat** and F<sup>#</sup> would be called F **sharp**.

See how all this information connects on a piano keyboard image. Take a few seconds to appreciate that G<sup>#</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> are the same note : they are called **enharmonics**.



**Basic intervals and tones** : an interval is a distance between two notes.

- A half-step interval is one **semitone** (distance between F and F<sup>#</sup> or E and F for example).
- A whole step interval is two semitones (distance between G and A or E<sup>b</sup> and F for example).
- Two half-steps make up a whole step also called one **tone**.

# Useful tools

**Tuner** : In order to tune your guitar it is nice to have a tool to help you with that. Here is one free smartphone application I can recommend you : Guitar Tuna.



**Metronome** : this is the second tool you will need for your guitar exercises and for practicing in general. I can recommend this free smartphone application : PRO Metronome.

