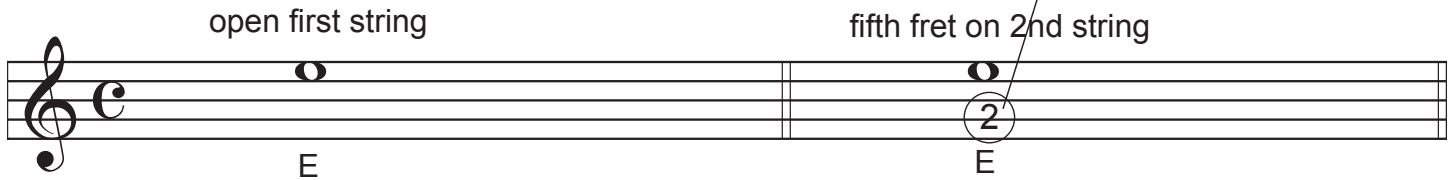


"Tuning the 2nd string by ear"

A teacher demonstration will help in this process.

In guitar music, a number inside a circle represents the string which is used to play that note.



Electronic guitar tuners are not very expensive and they are a sure fire way of tuning the guitar. However, you should know how to do the tuning with no electronic device to help you.

The note "E" as shown on the above staff is usually played as the open first string, but this same note can be played on the second string at the fifth fret. (for now, you can use any finger you wish in doing so)

If the note at the fifth fret of the second string does not sound the same as the first string open, it means that your guitar has gone out of tune for some reason. The tuning machines may have gotten bumped when you put the guitar in its case or maybe a nosy younger sibling decided to give the tuning gears a slight adjustment just for the heck of it.

Play the note at the fifth fret on the second string. Now play the first string open and listen closely. It is even better if you can play them in quick succession and let them both keep sounding at the same time. Listen to hear if the second string is lower or higher in pitch than the first string open. If the note at the fifth fret of the 2nd string sounds too low, adjust the 2nd string tuning machine to tighten the tension slightly. Now play the two notes again. If it still sounds too low, tighten it a bit more. Don't make any large adjustments unless the string is so loose that it is just flapping around.

Of course if the note on the 2nd string sounded too high in pitch, you would just loosen off the string slightly with the 2nd string tuning machine.

Don't be discouraged if tuning seems to be a big problem in the beginning. You have to listen carefully and be very patient. It will take some time to learn this craft.

Notice that I have suggested that you only adjust the 2nd string. If you have no other instrument to compare the tuning of the first string, assume that the first string is in tune. It is the thinnest of the six strings and also the easiest to break if you by mistake begin to tune it to too high a pitch.