

PRELIMINARY LESSON 2.

Starting a musical sound when your foot taps the floor and sustaining that sound as you raise your foot is called a "beat."

Up to this point, you have produced a very simple rhythm of six beats.

tap	tap	tap	tap	tap	tap
∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^
1 sustain___	2 sustain___	3 sustain___	4 sustain___	5 sustain___	6 sustain___

These simple beats can now be subdivided into more interesting rhythms by the use of arbitrarily chosen words of one, two, three or four syllables. Any other words capable of performing the same function will do. In this section, your foot takes over the counting, leaving your brain free to think words. Boy's nicknames will be used to designate one syllable words.

ED(ward) BILL(y) GUS(tave) DON(ald) AL(bert) ERN(est)

You will note that as your foot beats time, you read the words only on the down beat, leaving the up beat silent.

ED	?	BILL	?	GUS	?	DON	?	AL	?	ERN	?
∨ ^		∨ ^		∨ ^		∨ ^		∨ ^		∨ ^	
1		2		3		4		5		6	

To simulate a musical duration, we will sustain (mentally or orally) the appropriate letter or letters of each name.

E-----D	BI-----LL	GU-----S	DO-----N	A-----L	ER-----N
∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^	∨ ^
1	2	3	4	5	6

It is normal to have an almost imperceptible break in the sustain between beats. More about that at a later time.

(Editor: Notice that the first letters in the chosen words are the letter names of the open strings on the guitar. **G.A.)**