

PRELIMINARY LESSON 3.

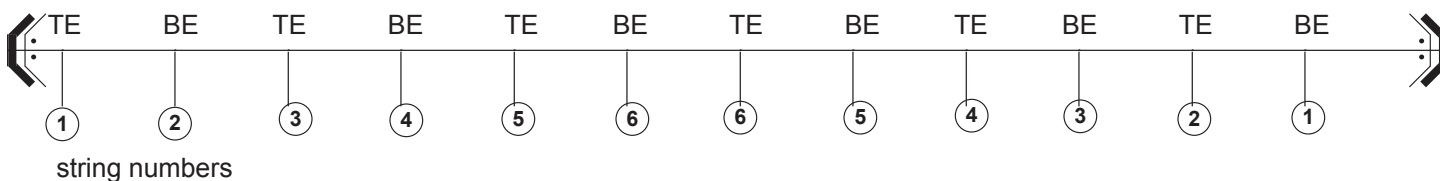
While the "Process of Learning" will deal with the plectrum (pick) style of guitar playing, the material presented may readily be adapted to the finger picking techniques. The manner in which the strings are struck or started in motion is called "attack." The striking being done by a pick or plectrum. These picks usually come in weights of thin, medium or heavy. They are made from various materials and come in all sorts of sizes and colours. Until you are playing well enough to experiment and make your own choice, I would suggest a rather small pick of medium to heavy weight. Your surrogate teacher will help.

In the following exercise, the pick is placed on the string. The string is not struck. Holding the plectrum, place the flat of your thumb against the outer side of your index finger. Now slide the pick between them with the tip of the pick pointing downward. Now with your guitar held in playing position, place your right arm on the top edge of the guitar body. The pick is now being held over the strings. Using the elbow as the sole pivot point, place the pick on the "top edge" of each string, from the first to the sixth. Repeat the process from the sixth string to the first string. Continue to repeat this process paying particular attention to the "feel" of the movement of the elbow. It is important that you develop this "feel." Continue now but this time, place the pick on the "bottom edge" of each string; from first to sixth and then sixth to first.

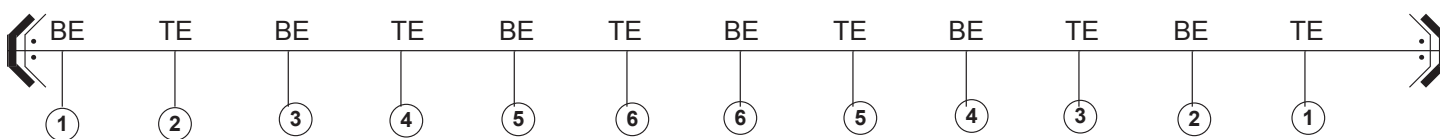
In the next permutation study, numbers in circles will designate the strings.

Looking downward at the strings, that part of the string that the eye is first aware of will be called the "top edge" (initials "TE") The under part of the string will be called the "bottom edge." (initials "BE") Talk your way slowly and calmly through the next two exercises. Place the pick as indicated.

pick placement



pick placement



Talk your way through both exercises as demonstrated here:

string 1 bottom edge, string 2 top edge, string 3 bottom edge, string 4 top edge, string 5 bottom edge, string 6 top edge.
string 6 bottom edge, string 5 top edge, string 4 bottom edge, string 3 top edge, string 2 bottom edge, string 1 top edge.

Continue this procedure throughout the entire exercise. Gradually eliminate the verbal in favour of a thought process whereby you can think the string number and the pick placement in a quasi simultaneous manner. This is not an easy task and will require firm mental discipline.

Because this technique will later apply to the sight reading of music, it is to be considered very important.