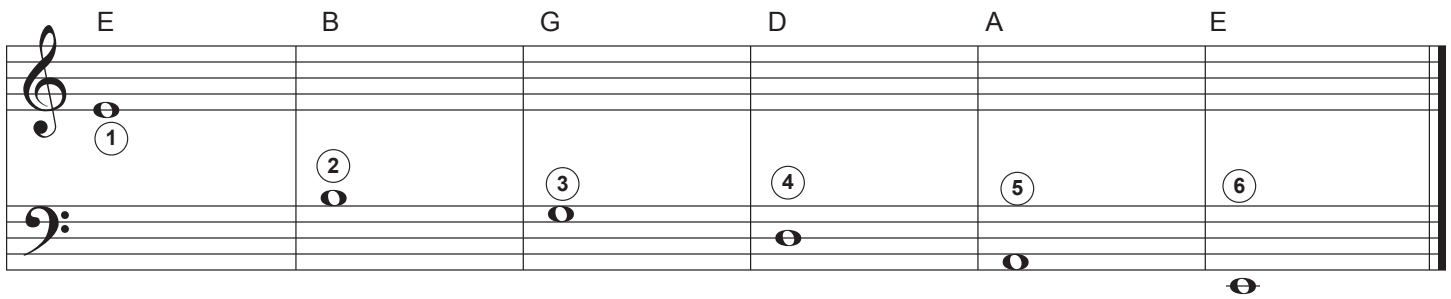
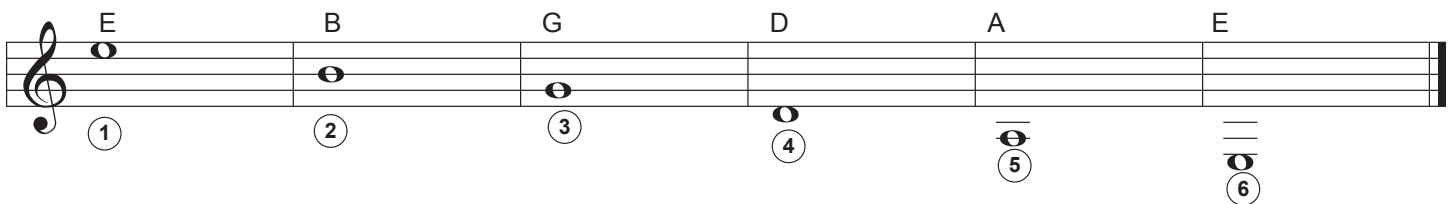


LESSON 1.

From string one (thin string) to string six (thickest string) the notes that represent the open strings on the guitar are:



In order to eliminate the possibility of having to learn to read music in two clefs (treble and bass clef) the founding musicians opted to write the notes one octave higher in order to place them all in one clef. More information on this phenomenon will be presented at an appropriate time.



Notice that the encircled numbers indicate the strings. This practice is universal. The encircled numbers are usually used in circumstances where a fingering problem may exist, or to indicate what was the arranger's or composer's intention at the time of writing.

Exercises in note reading and playing based on the open strings of the guitar are now presented. The word syllables will prove helpful should any rhythmical problem occur.

Since practice to many guitar students seems to be based on reiteration, (playing an exercise over and over again until memorized) the following practice routine may be helpful. It is calculated to deliver optimum results for the time expended.

1. Scan the material to be played for unfamiliar rhythms and note groupings.
2. Tap time with your foot and indicate rhythmical attacks by lightly slapping your thigh. If necessary, troublesome bars may be isolated and practiced separately. (Page 2 of this lesson continues the instruction for this practice routine.)

If the quality of practice matches the hours of practice, you are operating under maximum efficiency. Give yourself time and a chance to enjoy your lesson.

The brain does tire and when it does, learning ceases. Take note of your attention span. When your limit is reached, stop and take a rest.

Practice reading by the beat whether the beat contains one, two, three or four notes:

Similar to "I" = one letter, "He" = two letters, "Cat" = three letters and "Rain" = four letters. A beat can be thought of as containing a musical word that is read and spoken at the same rate of speed despite the number of letters.

Practice has two sections. Both deserve equal attention.

A. Learning ---- learn your lesson

B. Practice ---- practice what you have learned

Playing your lesson is not good enough. Until your reading and playing is under complete control, this practice routine **must** be enforced.