

A hand holding a Samsung smartphone. The screen shows a video of a person playing an acoustic guitar. The text 'Course Content Guitar 10' is overlaid on the screen in white.

## Course Content Guitar 10

**EBUS Academy**



## ***Introduction:***

In Guitar 10, students will be given the toolbox necessary for learning the guitar from the ground up. This will be the ultimate beginners course covering everything from how to play, guitar maintenance, and a history of the instrument and the nuances of music theory. Guitar 10 focuses on getting the students up and running with their guitars and to help them discover the joys of playing music.



## **Lesson 1: Anatomy of the Guitar/String names -**

Students will learn to label the different areas of the instrument and how these parts function together as well as the string names. Students will also begin to learn basic chord shapes to play in E standard.

## **Lesson 2: Tuning -**

Students will learn the basics of how to tune their instruments and what to tune them to. They will learn how to tune to a piano or other free sources as well they will learn about the different “accessories” they should have for their instruments including portable tuners, capos and string winders.

## **Lesson 3: Chords (Open)/Strumming -**

Students will begin to take a deep dive on learning different chords. The teaching will focus on chords in the key of C and G so that students have chords that will sound good together. Students will also go over basic strum patterns and the differences in guitar picks.

## **Lesson 4: Chords Work -**

Students will tighten up their chord playing and learn a few additional chords to fill out their mental library. This class will be dedicated to working on the technique and ability to switch chords.

## **Lesson 5: Strumming, in 4/4 Timing -**

Students will begin to learn the fundamentals of playing in time. Students will begin to practice with a metronome and will learn basic rhythm principles like time signatures, specifically 4/4, and strum patterns.

## **Lesson 6: Chord Work -**

We will go over more chords and work on finger articulation some more. Students will be tasked with combining chords in a 4/4 time.

## **Lesson 7: Majors and Minors -**

The students will already know some major and minor chords but in this lesson they will learn what makes a chord either a major or a minor, the defining characteristics of each and how to make different “versions” of the same chord.

## **Lesson 8: History of Music -**

Students will learn a brief history of the guitar and its place in contemporary music, from rhythm, background instrument to its reign as king of popular music for the second half of the twentieth century. Students will be challenged to understand and appreciate older forms of music and why they were popular in their times.

## **Lesson 9: Single Notes -**

We will begin to look at playing single notes on individual strings and basic guitar riffs. Students will be tasked with figuring out how to play simple lullabies on the guitar by using a selection of provided notes. Finger picking and hybrid picking will be covered and exercises will be given.

## **Lesson 10: Tablature -**

Students will begin thinking about the song they will choose to play for the first test. We will learn how to read tabs so we can pick great songs to play.

## **Lesson 11: Tuning/Guitar Anatomy Touch Up -**

We will continue our work with reading tabs and the students will be given small, four-bar tabs to work on. Also we will take a more in-depth look at guitar anatomy and tuning.

## **Lesson 12: Ironing out the Kinks -**

This is the last class before Exam#1 and it will be spent practicing our songs and furthering our techniques.

## **Lesson 13: Changing the Strings -**

In this lesson students will learn how to string and restring a guitar using some of the accessories and tools suggested before and what household items they can use as substitutes.

## **Lesson 14: Rhythm and Lead -**

Students will learn the difference between playing rhythm and playing lead. They will be encouraged to work on their rhythm playing. At this point the lessons will switch back and forth from chords to notes. Students will be given examples of famous bands and tasked with figuring out who played rhythm and who played lead.

## **Lesson 15: A New Song -**

After everyone has learnt their own individual songs, we will learn a song together, and go over tips for learning songs easier. The class song will re-enforce strong chord knowledge and proper picking technique.

## **Lesson 16: Note Names -**

Students will learn the 12 different notes that make up music and will begin to learn to count notes on the guitar neck starting from the open strings. This lesson will teach students the difference between natural notes and sharps/flats, as well as important terminology such as steps, half steps, semitones, etc.

## **Lesson 17: Note Names (Continued) -**

Students will continue their study and knowledge of the 12 different notes and the quickest ways to find them on the guitar neck. These notes names will be crucial to our upcoming tests and study of the guitar.

## **Lesson 18: The Major Scale -**

We will learn the technique and finger pattern to playing the major scale shape as well as playing it on a single string. They will learn what the major scale is and why it's so important to music as a whole.

## **Lesson 19: The Major Scale (Continued) -**

Students will continue the lesson on the major scale and why it is possibly the single most important piece of theoretical knowledge to understanding western music.

## **Lesson 20: Review -**

In this class we will review what we know so far in theory and in practice. Students will practice the song they played for their first test as well as the song they learnt in lesson 15. We will go over all the theory we've learnt up to this week.

## **Lesson 21: Creative Process/Songwriting -**

Using our knowledge of key signatures and how to play chords in key, we will think about making our own songs and what the process would be. Students will combine the chords they already know as well as their knowledge of key signatures to create their own chord progression.

## **Lesson 22: Developing Ourselves Musically -**

In this lesson students will have to really think about music they love and what inspires them. What kind of music do they want to create, what is the right guitar for them? We will also look over some famous examples of players and their stories.

## **Lesson 23: Electric Guitar vs Acoustic Guitar -**

Students will learn the differences between the two most common types of guitar, the different techniques they may need and the equipment necessary for pursuing electric guitar.

## **Lesson 24: Class Song -**

We will learn our next song. These will be eclectic and in different genres to give students a taste and appreciation for different kinds of music. These new songs will continue to challenge the students with attainable musical goals.

## **Lesson 25: Relative Minors/The Minor Scale -**

In this lesson students will learn how the minor scale fits into music, what a relative minor is and what makes the scale different from the major scale. As with the major scale students will learn two different ways to play the minor scale and how to quickly transpose it to any key.

## **Lesson 26: Songwriting with Majors and Minors -**

Students will learn how to make complex chord melodies using both majors and minors to give their music texture. We will begin to learn how majors and minor operate as the ying and the yang to writing music.

## **Lesson 27: Mini Concert/Playing to a Metronome -**

In this lesson we will look over the songs we now know how to play and play them, forming a "mini concert". This will test the students' abilities to jump back into the song when they fall off as well as playing in time. They will be encouraged to practice doing the mini concert alone with their song added to it.

## **Lesson 28: Theory and Practice Review -**

This is the final review before Exam#2. We will go over all the theory from the note names to the intervals to the scales.

## **Lesson 29: Bar Chords -**

This section studies techniques and strategies for playing some of the more difficult chords on acoustic guitars. Focusing on playing Bm specifically, the students will fill out their chord knowledge with three simple shapes that can be played anywhere. We will focus again on the major scale and how these chords relate to and fit in with it.

## **Lesson 30: Suspended Chords -**

In this lesson students will learn the theory behind a type of chord they will already know, the suspended chord. They will also take a look at Add9 chords to round out our knowledge of open chords.

## **Lesson 31: Genre Studies -**

Students will learn about the predominant genres played on guitar starting with blues and folk and moving to contemporary rock and pop. We will look at most mainstream genres and what the impact and influence of guitars has been in each of them.

## **Lesson 32: Cultural Appropriation -**

Students will develop an understanding the historical context of music like the blues and why it's an important building block of western music. They will learn how to be influenced by other cultures without appropriating them and find their own voice in music. This class will focus on cultural appreciation and the line between appreciation and appropriation.

## **Lesson 33: Strum Patterns/Finger Picking -**

Students will be tasked with learning more complex strum patterns as well as taking a look at finger picking and chord arpeggios using their fingers.

### **Lesson 34: Key Signatures -**

This is an introduction to key signatures and figuring out what key you're playing a song in without having to think about it. Students will learn how to quickly and accurately figure out what key the song is in, and what that means, only using two chords from the song.

### **Lesson 35: Musical Appreciation -**

It is good to find something to enjoy in all genres of music, not dismissing or writing off music because it isn't "your genre". We will discuss music as an art-form and how no one can truly judge a piece of art as "good" or "bad". This class will be focused on developing the students' musical appreciation beyond their comfort zones.

### **Lesson 36: Theory and Note Name Touch Up -**

Moving into the final lessons of Level 1, we will take another look at the note names and make sure we have quick and easy ways to know what any note on the neck is. We will practice our scales and knowing the notes in the relevant ones.

### **Lesson 37: Mini Concert -**

We will play through all the songs we've learnt together so far, playing to a metronome in 4/4. Students will need to be thinking of their final performance song.

### **Lesson 38: Writing our own Tabs/Practicing Final Performance -**

As students might be aware at this point, a lot of tabs online are wrong. We will be learning how to write our own tabs.

### **Lesson 39: Writing Our Own Songs -**

Students will begin thinking of how to write their own songs. These can include lyrics or be just guitar. Students will use their knowledge of key signatures to come up with chord progressions and think of either lyrics or lead lines to play over top.

### **Lesson 40: Playing Songs Accurately -**

Students will be given tabs for simple riffs and will attempt to play them without practicing first. We will learn tips and tricks to learning songs quickly and how to play in the key of the original without being sloppy. This will be a fun challenge.



## Lesson 41: Final Review -

We will review all the important theory we learnt throughout Level 1, and what steps the students can take to further their guitar playing when class is over.

