

Lyric Writing

RCM Sparks is the Royal College of Music's learning and participation programme.
To find out more and get involved visit [rcmsparks.com](#)

In this section you will find handy tips for

Finding a theme

The first thing you need to decide is what you want your song to be about! What's your theme? Here are some ideas for the subject of your song:

- Think of how the world changes as spring approaches!

Lockdown - Having to stay at home/ missing friends and family and what you hope will happen when things open up again..

Friendship/love - Think about the people who mean a lot to you - can you put into words how it feels when you think about them?

Something you feel needs to change - This could be a protest song about things that you think should be different

OR, you can choose _____ for your song.



Have a listen to these songs - they are all about subjects that are a bit unusual!
You can write your lyrics about anything!:

Octopus's Garden by The Beatles (Click the link).

Starman by David Bowie (Click the link).

Big Yellow Taxi by Joni Mitchell (Click the link).

Tell a story

When you are writing a song, think about telling a story. Think about if you were telling a story, or a joke to your friends - you wouldn't put all the information at the beginning - you would tell the details as you go along.

A good tip is to tell the details of the story in the verses and for the chorus to contain the main idea or message of your song.

My chosen theme is 'spring', because at the moment the days are getting longer and the weather is warming up - it's making me feel cheerful!

In the next few slides I am going to give examples for some lyrics for a song about spring. This is to show you some ideas for how to approach your song, and what kind of lyrics make a good verse, chorus and pre-chorus.

In the verse you are introducing your idea, maybe giving lots of detail and descriptions.

A good length for a verse is four lines long.

Try to keep the lines short and interesting.

In my example verse I have put in lots of details about spring, and what happens in spring-time:

Snowdrops are peeking at the sun,
The earth gets warmer, day by day,
Lost frost runs down the window panes,
New beginnings start again

You can decide on the RCM Song-writing Track-maker whether or not

The pre-chorus comes in between the verse and the chorus.

It acts like a link between them and builds excitement for the chorus.

The Pre-chorus lyrics can be the same each time, or they can change.

Our Pre-chorus sections are only two lines long.

In this example you can see that the Pre-Chorus is short and exciting, and will lead into the

How to write a Chorus

In the Chorus you can use the main theme as your key words. My theme is spring, so I have used the word 'spring' twice.

Then I have used general ideas about spring. Notice that there is not much detail – it's more like slogans that you might write on a banner.

Chorus:

Spring is here! It's time to shine!

Wake up and enjoy this special time,

Spring is here, and everyone should know,

This is the time to grow!

← Main theme or idea

← Not much detail – more like slogans about your theme

How to write a Bridge

You have the option to add a Bridge to your song if you are using the RCM Song-Writing Track Maker.

You have the option to add a Bridge to your song if you are using the RCM Song-Writing Track Maker.

You can choose to make up lyrics or just it as an instrumental section.

The Bridge usually has a slightly different feeling to the rest of the track. If you are writing lyrics, you can look at your theme from a different perspective.

Here is an example of a bridge for my song about spring. I have chosen a different angle here and am focusing on the contrast with winter.

Bridge:

Christmas seems so long ago, warming by the fireside,

Scarves and wellies for a walk in the park.

January made us shiver – the sun was out of sight,

Now we're moving to the light out of the dark!

← Different time period
– writing about Winter
instead of Spring

← Last line links back into



Writing interesting lyrics

Writing lyrics is really fun! You might feel really inspired and have loads of brilliant ideas!

Here are some tips to get you started:

1. Write down some of the words from your original idea.

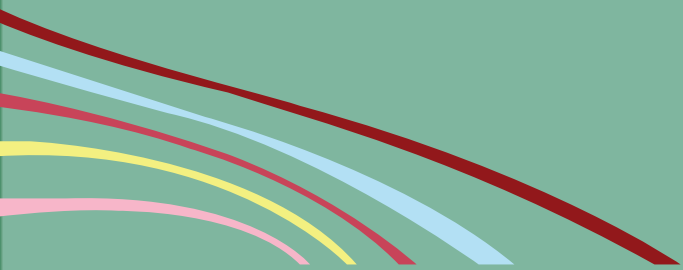
Here are some words about _____ :

- Spring growth new sunshine chicks
rabbits fresh earth water alive

2. Then write down two/ three words to do with each of these original words. Don't think too much about it- write down all your ideas without trying to make a judgment whether they are 'good' or 'bad':

- jump summer Easter tall stretch pull baby
clean sparkly warm shade hot

- feathers fluffy yellow hopping ears feet bunny
fragrant breeze soil mud roots B



It's definitely fun to make up rhymes at the end of the lines of your song:

Sparkly lake in the fragrant breeze,
Hives are bursting with the buzz of bees,
Warm air breathing down on the earth,
All the signs of new birth

You could also try internal rhymes, where you put the rhyme inside the line:

Heating, beating away the winter,
Heaving and breathing

Which structure do you want to use for your song?

Fill in your lyrics using the guides on one of the three next slides, depending on which structure you would like to use for your song.

If you are using the RCM Song-Writing Track Maker, you might want to make your backing track first before doing this.

Structures without a Bridge:

Chorus Pre-Chorus
Chorus Chorus

Chorus Pre-Chorus
Chorus Chorus
Chorus Chorus

You can also add a bridge to these. Bridges can have lyrics or not.



Structures with a Bridge:

Chorus Pre-Chorus
Chorus Chorus

Chorus Pre-Chorus
Bridge Chorus
Chorus Bridge
Chorus Chorus
Chorus Chorus

If you are using this structure...



Chorus
Chorus
Chorus

... then fill in this lyric sheet



Verse 1:

Chorus (always the same):

Verse 2 (could be different or the same as Verse 1):

Remember, if you choose 'Rock and Roll' then you will need two extra lines for Verse and Chorus (six lines each).

Verse 1:

Pre-chorus (usually the same both times):

Chorus (always the same):

Verse 2 (could be different or the same as Verse 1):

If you are using this structure...

...then fill in this lyric sheet

Pre-Chorus
Chorus

Pre-Chorus
Chorus
Chorus

Remember, if you choose 'Rock and Roll' then you will need two extra lines for Verse and Chorus (six lines each).

Verse 1:

Chorus (always the same):

Verse 2 (could be different or the same as Verse 1):

Bridge

If you are using this structure...



...then fill in this lyric sheet



Chorus

Chorus

Bridge

Chorus

Chorus

Remember, if you choose 'Rock and Roll' then you will need two extra lines for Verse and Chorus (six lines each).

Verse 1:

Pre-chorus (usually the same both times):

Chorus (always the same):

Verse 2 (could be different or the same as Verse 1):

Bridge:

If you are using this structure...



...then fill in this lyric sheet

Pre-Chorus
Chorus



Pre-Chorus
Chorus
Bridge
Chorus
Chorus

Remember, if you choose 'Rock and Roll' then you will need two extra lines for Verse and Chorus (six lines each).