



Vital Vocabulary

chord	Two or more notes that are played at the same time and work in harmony.
scale	Any set of musical notes which are in order of their pitch.
ascending scale	A scale in which the pitch of the notes goes up.
descending scale	A scale in which the pitch of the notes goes down.
blues scale	A set of notes used to play a melody over a 12-bar blues.
improvisation	Making up music as it is played or performed.
bent notes	A musical note that varies in pitch usually going up slightly at the end.
bar	A section of music with a specific number of beats (in blues there are usually 4 beats in a bar).
quaver	A note which last for half a beat.

12-bar blues A series of chords played in a specific order.

1	CCCC	2	CCCC	3	CCCC	4	CCCC
5	FFFF	6	FFFF	7	CCCC	8	CCCC
9	GGGG	10	FFFF	11	CCCC	12	CCCC



Key Knowledge – What will I know by the end of the unit?

- ✓ To understand that a chord is the layering of several pitches played at the same time.
- ✓ To know that 12-bar Blues is a sequence of 12 bars of music, made up of three different chords.
- ✓ To know that 'blues' music aims to share feelings and blues songs tend to be about sadness or worry.
- ✓ To know that a 'bent note' is a note that varies in its pitch, e.g. the pitch may slide up or down.
- ✓ To understand that a chord is the layering of several pitches played at the same time.

Key information



Blues music is often sad and emotional, which is why we say we have 'the blues' when we feel sad. Its main features are the 12-bar blues and the blues scale, and it includes a lot of improvisation.

The Blues scale

The Blues scale to accompany our 12-bar Blues is made up of these notes:

