

Junk Percussion

Arranging Your Word Phrases



Arranging Word Phrases To Create Rhythms

Put your word phrases together and play them as a song!

What do you need?

- a drum (or a cardboard box)
- a bell and a drumstick (or a tin can, mug or glass with a pencil or chopstick)
- a tambourine (or a small container filled with rice or something similar)
- paper and pencils or pens to write down your ideas

Let's start

1. Decide on the rhythm you wish to play. If you'd like to start with something similar to Chris's arrangement on the video, you'll need to have your drums, bells and tambourines ready. It's important to remember that the bell part is twice as long as the drum or the tambourine part, so when everyone is playing together, the bells repeat their part half as many times as the other instruments.
2. You can play the arrangement like this:
 - drums: 'Say g'Day' (repeat four times without any other instruments, then keep playing as other instruments come in)

- bells: 'Wa ba ba Ba ba Ba ren' (repeat four times, then keep playing while the tambourine comes in)
- tambourine: 'Cheese Stick a Cheese' (repeat four times as the other instruments play their parts)
- all instruments: bells repeat your part four times, while tambourine and drums repeat your part eight times
- bell solo: just the bells play their word phrase two times
- all instruments: bells repeat your part four times, while tambourine and drums repeat your part eight times
- finish: everyone finish on beat 1

3. Now you have an idea of what to do, go ahead and write down how you'd like your word phrases to be arranged to come up with your own musical piece.
4. When creating your arrangement, it's a good idea to have instruments coming in one by one and giving one instrument, or each instrument, a solo at some point. Ending with all instruments adds a dramatic touch, but you can also have instruments leaving gradually to give your piece of music a more subtle ending.
5. Once you've played through your arrangement several times and are feeling confident with it, think about the dynamics of your piece.

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Did you know

By including 'play quietly' or 'play loudly' on your parts, you are adding light and shade to your music, creating a more interesting arrangement.

What have you learned?

- What have you learned about structuring your song? What parts are there?
- What have you called your song and why?
- Describe what is meant by adding light and shade to your rhythm parts.