

Junk Percussion

Create Your Own Word Phrases



How To Create Your Own Word Phrases

Make up your own word phrases to create fun rhythms for your instruments.

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 to write down your ideas

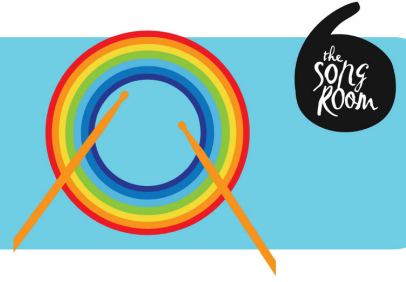
Let's start

1. The two different word-phrases you will use are:
 - 'Pineapple'
 - 'with Chocolate Milk'
2. Take turns to practise the rhythms several times on each of the instruments.
3. Once you're confident with these word phrases, it's time to start making up your own. It's great to choose a theme for your phrases. You could continue with a food theme, or try something different.

- Examples of other themes are the names of your friends, animals, or different kinds of trees.
 - An example of friends' names as a rhythm is 'Abdul, Sally and Rahi'. This rhythm is very simple, with each name starting on a beat, and the fourth beat being used for a breath.
 - An example using animals' names is 'Cats and Dogs and Spiders and Frogs' or, for something a little trickier, 'Possums, Wombats and Kangaroos'.
4. To be able to play your rhythms effectively and join them up with other rhythms, it is best to keep them to 2 or 4 beats. If you clap while you're singing and play the rhythm of 'Pineapple with Chocolate Milk' along with Chris in the video, you'll see that it's exactly 4 beats. Doing this means you can easily repeat your rhythm and still stay in time. It also means that you can add other rhythms or play different rhythms over the top of each other.
 5. Now it's your turn to try. Once you have chosen a word phrase you'd like to use for your rhythm, you can transfer it to an instrument. If you like, you can even choose what instrument you think your rhythm would suit.

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Did you know

In a lot of music, you will notice that the instruments which play the lower notes often have simple rhythms, while the instruments that play the higher notes often have busier rhythms. It's a great idea to play your rhythm on each of your instruments and see which one you think it sounds best on.

What have you learned?

- What word phrases did you make up?
- What were the hardest phrases to say?
- What instrument did your rhythm sound best on and why?