

Junk Percussion

Word Phrases



An Easy Way To Learn Rhythms

Learn some basic rhythms using word phrases as a guide. The rhythms are influenced by samba music from Brazil.

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)

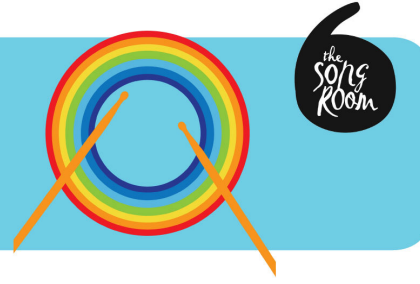
Let's begin

1. Firstly, think about the tempo at which you want to play your rhythm. Take it slowly to start with until you can easily play your rhythm, then you can increase the tempo as you become more confident.
2. Practise saying the phrase 'Say g'Day' several times while you clap along to keep time. The 'Say' and the 'Day' should be on the beat, while the 'g' comes just before the beat.
3. Once you're confident with the phrase, you can transfer it to your drum. If you don't have a drum, you can place a cardboard box upside down to create one.

- Try playing the rhythm of the words without speaking them.
 - If this is hard, you might like to speak the words as you play the rhythm to start with, and then see if you can say the words in your head as you play the rhythm.
4. If you're confident with the first rhythm you can move on to the next one, which is the bell part. The word phrase for this is 'Wa ba ba Ba ba Ba ren.' Again, it's a good idea to practise this phrase a few times while clapping, so you can remember the rhythm.
 5. If you're confident with the rhythm, you can transfer it to your bell. If you don't have a bell, you can use a tin can (or something similar like a glass or a mug) instead.
 6. The final rhythm is the tambourine part. The word phrase for this is 'Cheese Stick a Cheese'.
- Instead of a tambourine, you can use a small container filled with rice or something similar.
 - The tricky thing with this rhythm, which you'll notice when you're playing your part, is that there's almost another word that you could put in. As you're shaking your rice, it's hard to play 'Cheese' and 'Stick' without playing something in-between. If you like, you can play

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'Cheese (a) Stick a Cheese', making the first 'a' as silent as you can.

Tips

- To help you to clap in time, you can watch the video a few times while practicing clapping along and saying the phrases at the same time.

Did you know?

Samba music comes from Brazil, and has a history going back to Africa. Do you know where Brazil is? Have a look on a map to see if you can find it. What else do you know about Brazil?

What have you learned?

- What are the key features of rhythm?
- What word phrases did you find the easiest to use?
- What have you learned about the rhythms used in samba music?
- What are some songs you know that use a samba rhythm?