

# How to Tune the Ukulele (C6 Tuning)

**GCEA** is the original, standard ukulele tuning. **ADF#B** is also common, especially in Canada. To convert from C6 tuning (GCEA) to D6 (ADF#B), add a whole step to the tone of each open string. The geometry remains the same.

The ukulele has re-entrant tuning. Instead of the strings going from low to high, one of the strings (the G string in the case of the ukulele) “re-enters the scale” from a different octave. This re-entrant G string gives the ukulele its “my dog has fleas” sound, starting high, going low and working its way back up.

Start with the C string. Tune it to a piano, a pitch pipe, or take a guess.

Hold down the fourth fret on the C string and tune the E string to it.

Hold down the fifth fret on the E string and tune the A string to it.

Hold down the third fret on the E string and tune the G string to it.

Test your tuning by holding down the second fret on the G string; It should sound the same as the A string.

If this **E** string is in tune, then this fret will sound a **G** note, equal to the **G** string.

If this **E** string is in tune, then this fret will sound an **A** note, equal to the **A** string.

If this **G** string is in tune, then this fret will sound an **A** note, equal to the **A** string.

If this **C** string is in tune, then this fret will sound an **E** note, equal to the **E** string.

New strings often take a day or two to settle down. Speed it up by tuning higher, play it vigorously, then lower the strings back to standard pitch.

## C6

MY DOG HAS FLEAS  
G C E A

You can also learn to tune by watching the course video “Tune Up!”