Introductory Lesson | Ukulele

Set the tone for your 8 Lessons...

▶ Smile, Pen, Notebook

BEFORE YOUR 1ST SESSION
INTRODUCE YOURSELVES!
Connect w/ your student’s parent or guardian.
Discover student’s abilities & experience.

LESSON SCHEDULE
WRITE OUT THE SCHEDULE OF THE DATES
AND TIMES YOU’LL MEET FOR 8 LESSONS.
(Sample Schedule Included)

YOUR COMMITMENT
COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL.
Be reliable & respectful; show up on time.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH US
ENJOY YOUR TIME TOGETHER!
Email your photos & stories to:
photos@coachart.org

*Post on social w/ guardian consent #CoachArt

BUDGET AND REIMBURSEMENT
Contact your assigned program manager for your FREE equipment!
Schedule Dates & Times

LESSON 1
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 2
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 3
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 4
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 5
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 6
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 7
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

LESSON 8
Date: ___________________________
Time: ___________________________

HOLIDAYS & POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

TEXT | PHONE & EMAIL:
Week 1: Get to know each other with ice-breakers. Proper ukulele handling. Tuning (G, C, E, A). Body posture. C chord. Rhythm and strumming pattern.

Week 2: Basic Chords. Finger placing. F and G chords.

Week 3: Chord Warm Ups & Transitions. Three Little Birds – Bob Marley (C, F, G)


Week 5: Sing-along focus (humming or whistling can be substituted to connect melody with strumming). Am chord. Stand By Me – Ben E King (C, Am, F, G)


Week 7: Student’s Choice.

Week 8: Celebration! A party well-deserved for all your hard work! (recital, songs of choice, photos, recording performance. Check with parent/guardian about a special treat for their talented kid!)
Sample Ice Breaker

FUN FACTS CHALLENGE

HOW TO SAY UKULELE?
OO-KOO-LEH-LEH

• Ukulele means “jumping flea” or “gift from afar.”

• The first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, loved to play the ukulele.

• Stitch from “Lilo & Stitch” dresses up like Elvis on the beach and plays his ukulele.

• Soprano, Tenor, Concert and Baritone are the 4 types. There is also a bass, electric & banjo ukulele.

• Originates from similar small guitar-like instruments that Portuguese immigrants brought to Hawaii.

• George Harrison is a ukulele player who has an extensive ukulele collection.

• Jake Shimabukuro is the YouTube ukulele playing sensation who revitalized the instrument’s popularity.

• The ukulele is what elementary school age children in Hawaii learn to play.

MORE ICE BREAKERS:

1. Share a fun fact about yourself, and ask if your student will share one too (this can be a way to discover things you have in common).

2. My Favorite [x]: During each lesson, you can introduce a detail about yourself by describing your favorite thing in a category (examples: food, musical artist, season, etc.). Encourage the student to do the same, and take a few minutes to talk about why you like your respective choices.

3. Two truths and a lie! Tell the student three things about yourself — one of which is false — and see if the student can guess which is false. Then switch roles.

4. Never have I ever. You and the student each hold up 10 fingers. Tell the student something you’ve never done, and if they’ve done it, they put down one finger. Take turns. The game ends when either you or your student have put down all fingers.

5. What animal describes you and why?

EXAMPLE OF WHAT AN HOUR MAY LOOK LIKE:

- 5 minute check in with parent/guardian.
- 10 minute introduction to student.
- 30 minute lesson.
- 15 minute closing summary, cleanup, recap and assignments.

Assigning “Funwork”: You’re encouraged to invite your student to continue practicing their instrument, watching videos of ukulele artists, and writing about their experience for discussion at your next virtual lesson if you think this might be useful and welcome.
Sample Lesson

Three Little Birds – Bob Marley

Lyrics & Chords

C
Don’t worry about a thing,
‘Cause every little thing gonna be alright.

F
Singin’: Don’t worry about a thing,
‘Cause every little thing gonna be alright!

C
Rise up this mornin’,
Smile with the risin’ sun, Three little birds
Pitch by my doorstep Singin’ sweet songs
Of melodies pure and true,
Sayin’, This is my message to you-ou-ou

C
Singin’: Don’t worry about a thing,
‘Cause every little thing gonna be alright.

F
Singin’: Don’t worry about a thing,
‘Cause every little thing gonna be alright!

G
REPEAT
Learn the “C” Chord

The C chord is super simple as it only requires one finger.

Remember that the open circles represent open strings, so no fingers are needed on the G, C, or E string.

Place your third (ring) finger on the A string at the third fret. Your hand should look similar to the photo below.

RESOURCE: https://www.wikihow.com/Play-Chords-on-the-Ukulele
Learn the “F” Chord

Let’s try out the F chord.

Place your first finger on the first fret of the E string, and your second finger on the second fret of the G string. Done!

RESOURCE: https://www.ukulelebuddy.com/free-ukulele-chords.html
Learn the “G” Chord

Next, we’ll take a look at the **G chord**, which is a little trickier because it uses three fingers.

Place your first finger on the second fret of the C string, your second finger on the second fret of the A string, and your third finger on the third fret of the E string. This finger positioning might feel a bit uncomfortable at first, but the more you play, the more you’ll get used to it.

RESOURCE: https://www.ukulelebuddy.com/free-ukulele-chords.html
Sample Lesson

Stand By Me – Ben E. King

VERSE:
C Am
When the night has come And the land is dark
F G C
And the moon is the only light we’ll see
C Am
No I won’t be afraid, oh I won’t be afraid
F G C
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

CHORUS:
C
So darlin’, darlin’, stand by me
Am
Oh stand by me
F G C
Oh stand Stand by me, stand by me

VERSE:
C Am
If the sky that we look upon Should tumble and fall
F G C
Or the mountain should crumble to the sea
C Am
I won’t cry, I won’t cry, no I won’t shed a tear
F G C
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

CHORUS

REPEAT

Created By: Liz Neff
learn more at www.coachart.org | @coachartorg
Learn the “Am” Chord

For the Am chord, place your first finger on the second fret of the G string.

RESOURCES:
https://www.ukulelebuddy.com/free-ukulele-chords.html
Sample Lesson

Just The Way You Are – Bruno Mars

VERSE
C
Oh, her eyes, her eyes make the stars look like they’re not shinin’
Am
Her hair, her hair, falls perfectly without her trying
F          C
She’s so beautiful, and I tell her everyday...yeah
C
I know, I know, when I compliment her she won’t believe me
Am
And it’s so, it’s so, sad to think that she don’t see what I see
F          C
But every time she asks me, "Do I look okay?" I say

CHORUS
C
When I see your face (face, face...)
Am
There’s not a thing that I would change
F
’Cause you’re amazing (amazing)
C
Just the way you are (are)
C
And when you smile (smile, smile...)
Am
The whole world stops and stares for a while
F
’Cause, girl, you’re amazing (amazing)
C
Just the way you are (are).... Yeah

VERSE 2, REPEAT CHORUS X2 (CONTINUE WITH THE SAME CHORDS)
After 20 years serving as a volunteer coach with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and as Director of the Special Needs Soccer Program (VIP), I retired from my youth soccer service... and just by chance ended up with CoachArt. There I decided to change up my volunteer work, this time bringing ukulele knowledge. I have been playing ukulele for about 10 years, mostly as a hobby. My prior ukulele teaching experience came when I was part of a grant program called “Ukuleles for Little Tokyo” where free ukulele classes were provided to senior housing residents and to children of low income family housing. Also I occasionally played publicly with the U-Space ukulele ensemble at public events. Once in a while my ukulele playing son and I would perform at charity events or private parties. I realized that sharing and teaching ukulele was most rewarding to me. That’s why I feel so blessed to have discovered CoachArt.

If you want some advice from an experienced CoachArt Ukulele coach, feel free to email Tony at: coachtoneybee@yahoo.com
Adapt and Get Creative

LESSON TIPS CONTINUED...
ADAPTING TO SPECIAL NEEDS

HEARING LOSS

- Obtain student’s attention prior to speaking
- Reduce auditory distractions (background noise)
- Enhance speech reading conditions (avoid hands in front of the face, keep mustaches well-trimmed, no gum chewing)
- Face your students, make eye contact when speaking, and clearly enunciate speech
- As a general rule, stand close to students who are hard-of-hearing when giving instructions
- Use visual supplements (projected materials, whiteboard, charts, vocabulary lists, lecture outlines)
- Use facial expressions, gestures and body language to help convey your message, but don’t overdo it
- Repeat others’ comments and/or questions before responding to help hard-of-hearing students understand

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

- Repeat instructions
- Provide frequent feedback
- Break down tasks into smaller steps
- Display rules
- Prepare students for transitions
- Always demonstrate when giving instructions
- Reduce distractions
- Find out the student’s strengths and emphasize them
- Be flexible about expectations
- Seek advice from parents/guardians
- Be patient

VISION IMPAIRMENT

- A tactile music staff with various textures for notes (sandpaper, cardboard, etc.), along with verbal explanations, can provide the student with some idea of the format of printed music, the shapes of printed notes and symbols, and the linear progression of notes.

Click here for more tips and tricks for working with different types of CoachArt students.