

# Lesson 1: Uke'an Strum

**Lesson Date:** Friday, November 4th 2016

**Course:** Ukulele Instruction

**Lesson Title:** Uke'an Strum

**Level:** Beginner

**Arrival:** 2:40 (for tuning & set-up)

**Lesson Duration:** 3:00 - 4:00

**Lesson Objectives:**

- Introduce yourself to group
- Get the group comfortable with each other
- Establish 3 rules of handling the ukulele
- Members will learn to identify main parts of ukulele
- Members will learn basics of strumming
- Members will strum to a song
- Extra time: introduce frets

**Preparation:**

- Arrive 20 minutes early to tune 15 ukuleles
- Set up classroom with chairs

**Instruction Outline:**

- Introduction:
  - Introduce yourself
  - Talk to Members individually as you tune the ukuleles
- 3 Rules:
  - Take turns - Everyone will have the chance to play. Teach Members to be respectful when you're teaching and when their classmates are asking questions/playing/singing.
  - Tuning - Only leader will tune ukuleles. If Members play with tuners, ukuleles won't sound right or strings could snap = broken instrument.
  - Work Together - Work with Members, and Members work with you and each other. Encourage Members to help neighbor if they're struggling.
- Game Idea: Member who can recite all 3 rules gets first choice of uke
- Hand out ukuleles
  - Let them (gently) take ukuleles out of case

- Identify different parts of the ukulele together - Use Ukulele Anatomy Handouts
  - Head, Body (compare instrument to a puppy = handle it with care)
  - Tuners - do not touch
  - Strings
  - Frets
- Strumming Explanation
  - Say, "Who knows how to strum?" then explain:
    - Use right hand to strum
    - Down-strum - start by using thumb pressed up against fretboard
    - Note by note, play each string down
    - Start doing it faster
    - For Members who learn quickly:
      - Use index and thumb of right hand pressed together to strum
- Strumming Game
- Fret Game
- Play songs for Ukulele Strum-Along
  - You Are My Sunshine (Use songs with which they are familiar)
- Ukulele Song Binder
  - Invite group to write down songs they want to learn in binder

### Activities:

- Ukulele Anatomy Handout
  - Print out two of these sheets and put it in the front of class for members who are having a difficult time remembering parts of ukulele
- Strumming Game -
  - Say, "When I say the number 8, use the strumming technique we just learned to strum down on your ukuleles."
  - Members strum on 8: 1234678 12345678
  - on 4 and 8: 12345678 12345678
- Fret Game -
  - Say "Who can find the \_\_ Fret the fastest?"

- Call out different frets and members race to identify each Fret first
- Use this game often so Members are comfortable with Frets and are more prepared for learning chords

**Key Vocab:**

- Strumming
- Notes
- Frets
- Body of Ukulele
- Tuners

**Materials / Equipment:**

- Ukulele Tuner
- 15 Tuned Ukuleles
- Chairs
- Ukulele Anatomy Handout
- Ukulele Song/Handout Binder

**Additional Information:**

- Group taught in Learning Center (large room)
- Attendance: 11 Members

**Ukulele Teaching Tips:**

- Not every moment has to be structured, make sure members have time to sing with the ukulele and play together
- Reach out to the two young people that aren't singing along with the group and help them join the others
- Work one on one with members when other Members are occupied with singing with the ukulele
- Never shut down song ideas, Members will tell you what they want to learn
- Spend time talking and connecting with the Members