

Guitar Tuning By Ear

When tuning the guitar by ear, start first with a reference pitch. You can use a piano, or a pitch pipe, or another guitar. Start with the 6th string which is an E. From there the 5th fret on the 6th string is an A. This gives you a reference pitch for the 5th string. You continue this way across the fretboard, using the 5th fret of the lower string with the open string you are tuning. The one exception to the 5th fret rule is the 2nd (B) string, with lines up with the 4th fret of the 3rd (G) string.

The chart below is a graphic representation of the guitar fretboard. The numbers across the top correspond to frets. The numbers along the side correspond to string numbers and string note names.

	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	1st	
	---	-A-	---	---	---	---	E (6)
	---	-D-	---	---	---	---	A (5)
	---	-G-	---	---	---	---	D (4)
	---	---	-B-	---	---	---	G (3)
	---	-E-	---	---	---	---	B (2)
	---	---	---	---	---	---	E (1)