

ALL ABOARD!

The First Class

Way To Perfect

Practise!

ALL ABOARD!

1. Normally, your strum and sing ukulele train chugs along smoothly.
2. Sometimes there is a stumble or hesitation - one of your carriages requires a repair.
3. Your performance is de-railed.
4. Identify the problem carriage – in the example, the difficulty is changing between C and E7. Finding the problem is an important step.
5. Focus on **‘THE PROBLEM, THE WHOLE PROBLEM, AND NOTHING BUT THE PROBLEM’**. DON'T continue making the mistake, going back to the beginning of the song, making the mistake, going back to the beginning *because*: you will end up *practising* your mistake – In fact, you will keep playing the mistake over and over so many times that your mistake will be the best mistake in the world! So, this is why you must focus on **‘THE PROBLEM, THE WHOLE PROBLEM, AND NOTHING BUT THE PROBLEM’**. In this case, practise moving between C and E7, and **nothing else** – forget singing the words of the song at this stage – the chord change is the issue. Start SLOWLY with 8 strums on each chord, then 4, then 3, then 2, then 1. SLOWLY

is the key word here - and only reduce the number of strums when the change can be made without stumbles or hesitation. Now try to strum **AND** sing the problem area, SLOWLY and carefully getting the timing just right.

6. With the problem area (or carriage) repaired, try to 'hitch' it to the engine and the first carriage (the part of the song **BEFORE** the problem area). Don't choose too big a section – a line or two will do.

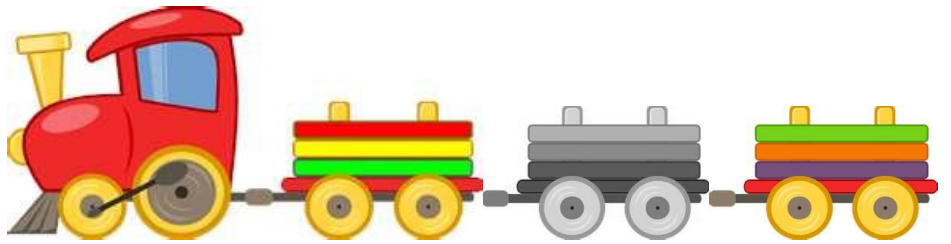
Again, proceed SLOWLY and with care to avoid any derailments.

7. Now, hitch up the repaired carriage to the remaining carriage (the part of the song **AFTER** the problem area). Again, a small section only, and SLOWLY and carefully.

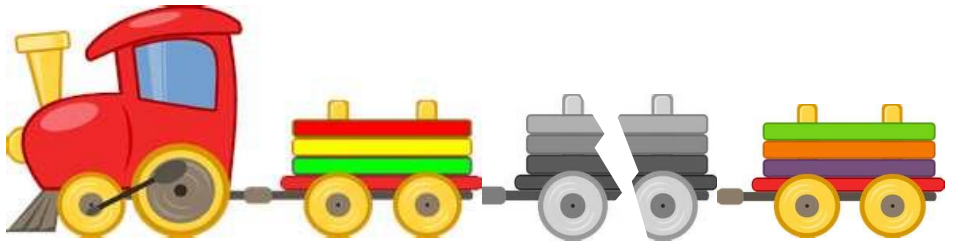
8. With all carriages secure - Off you go! – SLOWLY at first, GRADUALLY building up 'steam'.

CHOO - CHOO - KU - LE - LE!

1



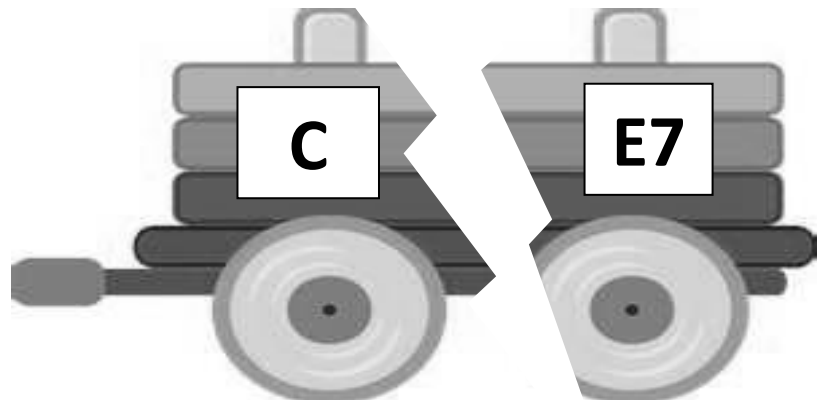
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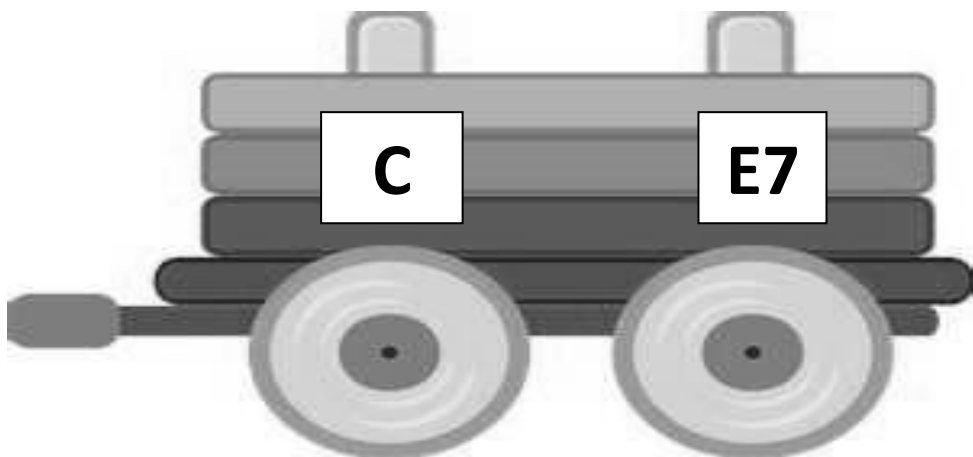
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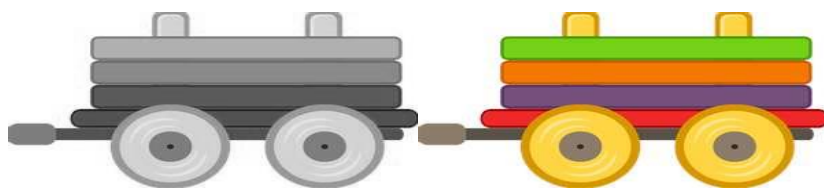
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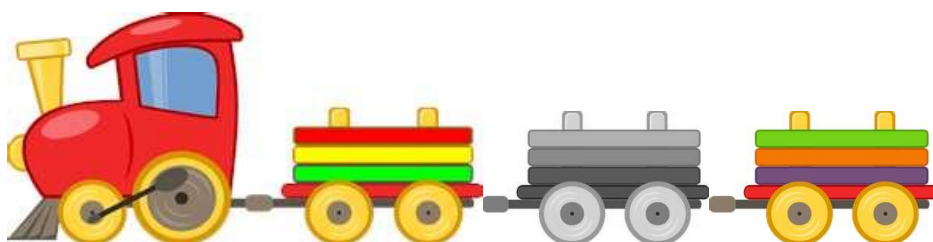
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7



8



AN EXAMPLE USING STEPS 4 - 8

Stuart keeps stumbling in the song ***When I'm Cleaning Windows:***

*You'd [C] be surprised at [A7] things they do [D7]
When I'm [G7] cleaning [C] windows. In [E7] my
profession I work hard [A7] But I'll never stop*

Step 4: He has identified the problem:

Moving from C to E7

[C] windows. In [E7] my profession I work hard

Step 5: Stuart focusses on the problem:

First, he practises moving from C to E7 - no singing - just the chord change: 8 strums on each, then 4, then 3 etc. He then strums **AND** sings the problem area. He does this slowly without stumbles or hesitations

[C] windows. In [E7] my profession I work hard

Step 6: He selects a part of the song **BEFORE** the problem area:

And links the two together without stumbles or hesitation:

*You'd [C] be surprised at [A7] things they do [D7]
When I'm [G7] cleaning [C] windows. In [E7] my
profession I work hard*

Step 7: Stuart selects a part of the song **AFTER** the problem area:

And links the two together without stumbles or hesitation:

*[C] windows. In [E7] my profession I work hard [A7]
But I'll never stop*

Step 8: Finally, he links all sections together:

And does this without stumbles or hesitation:

*You'd [C] be surprised at [A7] things they do [D7]
When I'm [G7] cleaning [C] windows. In [E7] my
profession I work hard [A7] But I'll never stop*

