

Making music with instruments at home

YOU WILL NEED

- A selection of homemade instruments
- Some pictures or objects for inspiration
- A group of people to play with or a way of recording parts

How to make your piece of music

1. Choose a group of things that you can say their names out loud e.g. types of food, colours, things on your desk, animals (anything will do)
2. Choose one instrument that you can keep a steady pulse on and choose one of your words to say with it. E.g pasta, pasta. Decide if you are going to say it fast or slow, and whether you will leave gaps in between. When you are happy, choose one of your instruments that you would like to play it on. Write it down if it helps (see example below from video):

Pasta wait wait wait **Pasta** wait wait wait

Pasta wait wait wait **Pasta** wait wait wait

3. Now layer up your composition by adding other words with other instruments, keeping the pulse steady

Potato, wait **potato**, **potato**,

Potato, wait **potato**, **potato**,

Lemony **lemony** **lemon** wait

Lemony **lemony** **lemon** wait

Wait wait **crisps**

Wait wait **crisps**

Wait wait **crisps**

Wait wait **crisps**

4. **Now practise your piece with all the parts together. If you have enough people you can do them all at once, if not try two together, or record some so that you can put them together.**
5. **Decide on a structure for your piece. Here are some ideas:**
 - **Start with one rhythm and build up one rhythm at a time. They could all stop together, or stop one at a time in the same order the piece started**
 - **Start with two instruments together, then swap to a middle section with the other two instruments, then finish with the two that started**
 - **Appoint a conductor who controls who starts and stops – experiment with different combinations and sometimes hear the instruments on their own.**

More ideas

- **Experiment playing at different dynamics: loud and soft and with times when you get louder and softer gradually**
- **Try playing at different tempi: fast and slow**
- **Try making rhythms more complex or changing the rhythms on the same instrument to make the piece more complex and interesting**
- **Pick a theme for your music: the park in the dark, climbing a mountain, a busy factory.**
- **Find a recording app or use a production app like GarageBand or Soundtrap to record and even manipulate the sounds.**

Glossary

DYNAMICS – How loud a piece of music is played and the different levels or variation.

PULSE – repeating beats that are repeating and regular

RHYTHM – a pattern of notes made up of different durations

TEMPO – the speed of the music