

Melody writing exercises

1. Write a melody using just one note of a chord

Exercise: pick one note in the C chord (C-E-G), and write a melody to the text:

The power and the glory (repeat 3 times)

2. Embellish a one-note melody by adding a **neighbor tone**, which can be one note above or below the note you pick.

Exercise: pick one note in the C chord (C-E-G) and add a **neighbor tone** to your melody, using the text:

The power and the glory (repeat 3 times)

Example: if you pick the note E, your neighbor tone could be a D and/or an F

3. Write a melody using two chord tones.

Exercise: using two notes in the C chord (C-E-G) and A minor (A-C-E), create two melodies for the text

At night you come and creep in my mind

Example: If you use C major, you could use the notes E and G, and if you use A minor, you could use A and C.

4. Write a melody using two chord tones and a **passing note**, which is the note between the two chord tones. Example, if you use C and E from the C chord, your passing note would be a D.

Exercise: using two chord tones and a passing tone from the C chord and A minor chords, create two melodies for the text:

At night you come and creep in my mind

Example: If you use A minor, you could use the notes A and C, with the B as your passing tone. Extra challenge: you may add a **neighbor tone**.

5. Create a melody from an **arpeggio**, which is 3 or more chord tones.

Exercise: Using an **arpeggio**, create a melody using the A minor chord to the text:

*Baby if you want me,
You got to come and get me*

or

You know it's not the way, not the way to go

Tip: You can use the notes in any order, going ascending or descending, or mixing them up. A minor: A-C-E

6. Create a melody using a scale. The easiest way to hear scales is to first hear the chord's arpeggio, and then fill it in with passing notes.

Exercise: Using a scale (either C chord or A minor), create a melody for the text:

*Baby if you want me,
You got to come and get me*

or

You know it's not the way, not the way to go

Example: If you use A minor, your notes would be A-B-C-D-E, and C major, your notes would be C-D-E-F-G. You can use the notes in any order.