## Rhythm Words.

Without rhythm we have no music, but without melody we can still have music and without harmony we can still have music. Rhythm supplies the pattern that allows us to make sense of music. You can't play accurately by yourself or with others in a band without everyone present being able to keep in time, you can't create good improvisations, you can't work out things by ear unless you know how to interpret rhythm. It's the absolutely fundamental musical skill.


Write in the standard notation as shown on the left next to the Rhythm Words $1-8$ below. Number 7 is a dotted quarter note - the dot adds 50\% extra duration to the note.

For the purposes of these rhythms, each $X=$ contact with the strings, and arm movement continues through unchecked squares.

## count: $\mathbf{1}+\mathbf{2}+$

| Down |  |  |  | Up |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | X | Down | Up |  |
| 2 | $X$ |  |  |  |
| 3 | $X$ | $x$ | $x$ | $x$ |
| 4 | $X$ | $x$ | $x$ |  |
| 5 | $X$ |  | $x$ | $x$ |
| 6 | $X$ | $x$ |  | $x$ |
| 7 | $X$ |  |  | $x$ |
| 8 | $X$ | $x$ |  |  |

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This way of thinking about rhythm will in the medium/long term:

- Allow you to hear a rhythm, play it accurately, and notate it
- Develop your abilities to transcribe rhythms by ear
- Increase your ease/confidence with reading and playing written rhythms Increase your options for creating sympathetic appropriate strumming patterns for songs
- Increase your awareness of the different rhythmic elements in music and how to play both single note lines and chords with good rhythm, in time
- Understand and play syncopated rhythms
- Have a set of 5-10 rhythms you can easily play that you are familiar with Now combine two rhythm words to create a full bar of rhythm - and write both the numbers of the rhythm words, and how the notation works - create three of these here:

Now try to work out what the 'rhythm words' that make up the examples you're going to hear are and write them down:

## Snow Patrol - Chasing Cars



Ozzy Osbourne - Crazy Train


Pixies - Here Comes Your Man


Blue Oyster Cult - Don't Fear the Reaper


Guns N Roses - Sweet Child of Mine


