

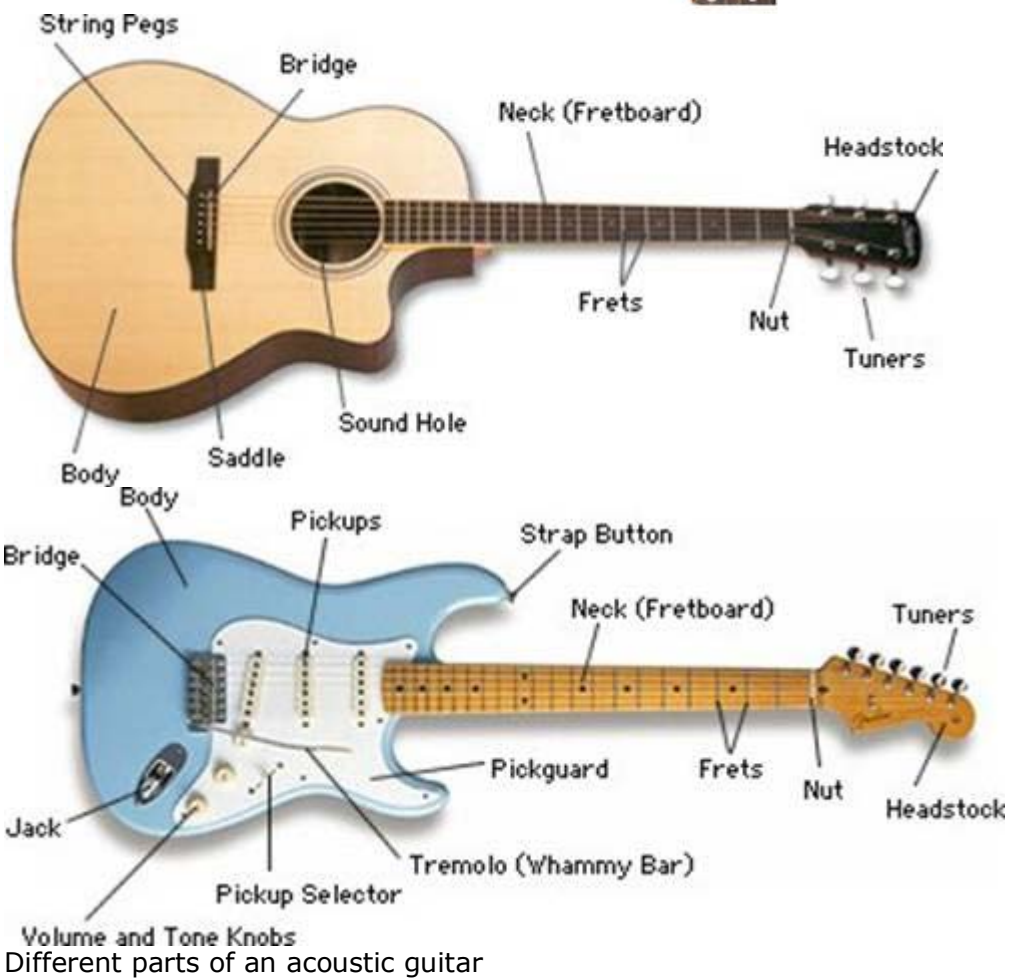
**How to buy the best guitar when  
you don't even know the "G" of Guitar**

**Musicology's easy step by step  
guide for beginners**



# parts of a guitar

Fret numbers



Different parts of an acoustic guitar

## Action:

The distance between guitar fret board and strings is called "Action". If the "action" or string height is too high, the instrument will be much more difficult to play. The classical guitar is a bit different. It uses nylon rather than steel strings. The action is sometimes higher than on the steel string, and the neck is wider. The distance between fret board and strings should be as minimum as possible



The distance between fret board and strings should be as minimum as possible

1. Avoid purchasing an acoustic or classical guitar in rainy season, as they are made from wood. High temperature and humidity can affect the wood and strings.
2. First, make sure that the make of guitar is good. It should be well-cut, well polished and well finished. Then make sure that its not too heavy to hold. As electric guitars are heavier, you can compare the weights of different models.
3. Carefully watch different parts of the guitar. Make sure its not broken or repaired, especially on joints around body and neck.
4. Ask the shopkeeper to tune the guitar and play a bit for you. A good guitar salesman must know how to tune a guitar. Some shops also hire musicians for demonstration.
5. Make sure that the "Action" is not too high. In other words, The distance between fret board and strings should be as minimum as possible.
6. At the same time, make sure that the strings are not buzzing. Press any string on any fret with your left hand index finger. Now Play that string with your right index finger and notice that the sound is clean and pleasant.
7. Press any string on a fret, close to the body, like 15th fret or 17th fret and notice how long the string sustains the sound. The longer it sustains, better is the guitar.



Press any string on a fret near the body, as shown above and notice how long the sound sustains

8. Strings should be clean and new.
9. Believe your ears. Randomly strum the strings and notice that the sound is pleasant to the ears. Compare different guitars and check the sound. No matter if you haven't played guitar before, you know what garbage sounds like! Isn't it?
10. Finally make sure you're getting a bill / cash memo. The salesperson might tell you that it would cost you more with a bill because of the taxes. Always go for a bill with guitar's company name on it. Ask the salesperson to give you some free stuff like guitar cover, plectrums or extra strings with the guitar. However sometimes guitar cover is not included in the price.
11. Always keep your guitar in the cover and handle it carefully. Try to play it regularly. If you're not going to play your guitar for some time, lose the strings.

Happy guitaring!

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