


How to get tunes in a key and speed that you can play along to

It's great to play along with recordings of songs. It's fun, but it's also the very best way to get the feel of the song, especially the rhythm. But often recordings are too fast, or in the wrong key.

Here's how you can fix this.

- Find the original version in YouTube.
- If it's in the same key as we play it in, you can play along as it is.
- You can slow YouTube clips down 25% or even 50% by Clicking on Settings  then selecting Playback Speed. This doesn't change the pitch (key).
- If it's in a different key from the ukulele arrangement, you will know because it will sound wrong when you play along.
- If it is in a different key, it's more complicated, but there are clever ways to change the key:
 - First, download the tune from YouTube. You can do this if you have YouTube Premium. There are also many apps and online tools that can do this. I use a free app called "**4k YouTube to MP3**" which I downloaded to my desktop computer.
 - Once you have an MP3 version of the song, you need an app that can change the key, by changing the pitch of the song. The best app is "**Audacity**". It's also free, and can do all sorts of wonderful audio editing things. There is also an online app here: <https://mp3cut.net/change-pitch>
 - When you open an MP3 in *Audacity*, you get a wave form of the song. To change the pitch (key) you double click on the track, then click on *Effect > Change Pitch*. You will need to work out what key the original version is in. The easiest way is to ask Google (What key is in?) – you will usually find the answer! You can also play along with the original track and trying out different keys by trial and error – changing it by one interval (semitone) up or down incrementally till it sounds right. Sometimes this requires a capo. Once you have worked out the key of the original, put this into *Audacity's Effect > Change Pitch* to change it to the key you have the song written out with — and voilà, the song is in a key you can play along with. It may sound a bit strange, but you will be able to play along.
- You can also change the tempo/speed with *Audacity: Effect > Change Tempo*.
- Changing key and tempo are done independently, so it's not like a turntable where changing the speed changes the tempo.

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