



HOW TO WRITE LYRICS

By Wes Senter

Songwriters Portal International, LLC – *The Practical Method of Creating a Song.*

PROFILE

Hello and thank you for reading my notes on how to write lyrics for a new song. My name is Wes Senter. I am the co-founder of Songwriters Portal Intl. LLC.

I have written over 200 songs with instrumental tracks, mixed and mastered. Am I an expert? I would not say that I am. However, I do know what music industry professionals are looking for in today's climate.

Our company "Songwriters Portal" helps songwriters pitch their music to music industry professionals around the globe every day. We have successfully placed songwriters with many recording artists and continue to do this every day.

CONTACT

WEBSITE:
songwritersportal.com

EMAIL:
wes@songwritersportal.com

BACKGROUND

Songwriting – 10 years
Creating melodies – 20 years
Technical – Designed and Created
songwritersportal.com.



INTRODUCTION

The Concept

In today's music industry climate, the demand for new songs is high. Producers and Artists are looking for original, upbeat songs. Slower paced ballads are not as popular as they once were.

Keep that in mind when writing your lyrics. You will need a guitar or piano at a minimum so you can develop the melody that will be used with your lyrics.

LET'S GET STARTED

Where Do I Start?

I have always started writing by thinking about things that have impacted my life. It could be anything really. Like a girl that I knew in high school, but I was far too shy to say anything to her.

The Melody is just as important as the lyrics. I often use my guitar to help me be creative in songwriting. I get lyrics from songwriters all of the time but many have no melody, so I don't know how the writer intended the song to sound.

If you have a guitar and can play it, wonderful. The same goes for a piano. You need something to create the melody for the lyrics. You will find that it is much easier to write lyrics while playing an instrument.

Brain Storming

Let's write a new song and see where it goes from here. I thought about something my family used to say, so let's write a song about it. This will be the main topic of the song and is also referred to as the "Hook".

The Hook

Every song should have a "**Hook**". The hook is the one catchy phrase that will be placed throughout the song that listeners will remember. The hook strengthens the composition of the song. It should appear several times throughout the song.

In the song that we are about to create, you will understand.

Structure

Most of the music industry producers are looking for the standard structure of a song. The structure is as follows.

Intro, Verse, Verse (Optional), Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus, Outro.

Now that we have the basics, let's start putting our song together. I play the guitar, so I will use it to help me construct the lyrics and the melody at the same time.

BUILD THE SONG

Verse 1

Remember me writing about something my family used to say?

This phrase will also be the “hook” as described above. It will also be the title of the song.

The phrase I thought of is “**A Little Bit**”. So, thinking back when I lived with my parents and my grandparents came around, they would say “A little bit of this and a little bit of that”.

Putting that into the lyrics of my song for Verse 1 and I am strumming chords on my guitar to find the ones that sound the best with these lyrics.

Here it is – **Verse 1** with chords. Try to rhyme words between each verse.

C E- A- F
My daddy used to say a Little Bit of This.

C E- A- F
My momma used to say, baby give me a kiss.

C E- A- F
A little bit of heaven's what my papaw said.

C E- A- F
All of those memories still fill my head.

How does that sound so far? By the way, I did not mention that each verse should be 8 bars in length. What is a bar? That is another course all together. Google it.

The first verse is simple. The words from line-to-line rhyme. The hook is present in the first **verse**. It is “A Little Bit” and that will also be the title.

Important!! Your song must convey a story to the listener. You would not write a book that did not make sense, would you?

At this point, you could write a second verse or go straight into the chorus. It all depends on what you are writing about and if you have more about the beginning of the story than you could convey in the first verse.

For this training exercise, we will keep it short and simple. I do not want to complicate things. So, let us go straight into the **chorus**.

Chorus

The **chorus** of a song should not be a continuation of the verse. It should be the main focus of your song.

The **chorus** will be the same, word for word, throughout your song and it will convey the general idea of what it is you are writing about.

So, here is the **chorus**. Why did I word it the way I did? Think about it.

F C E- A-
A small amount of something is better than none.

F C E- A-
A little bit of heartache is not much fun.

F C E- A-
One good woman is so hard to find.

F C G C
A little bit of love keeps them on my mind.

Let's talk about the **Chorus**.

The hook is present in the chorus. It rhymes from line to line. It continues the first verse but in a more general way. Did you notice that I changed the key that the chorus is played in. This is advisable because you don't want your songs melody to sound the same all the way through. Change it up and the listener will find it more interesting.

From the question prior to starting the chorus, I worded it the way I did to convey a broader picture when thinking about "A Little Bit" of something. It is more general in nature while the verses are more specific. Get it?

Let's continue with **Verse 2**. More specific lyrics.

Verse 2

C E- A- F
A little bit of sugar in my coffee today.

C E- A- F
Gets my feet moving so I'm on my way.

C E- A- F
The days are getting shorter and the sun's going down.

C E- A- F
A little bit of peace I'll find in this little town.

The words from line-to-line rhyme. The hook is present in the first line. It is also present in the fourth line. Each line is eight bars in length, and it continues the story.

Now, according to standard structure, we will repeat the chorus.

Chorus

F C E- A-
A small amount of something is better than none.

F C E- A-
A little bit of heartache is not much fun.

F C E- A-
One good woman is so hard to find.

F C G A-
A little bit of love keeps them on my mind.

The hook is in the chorus, strengthening the story line. It is practically a duplicate of the first chorus. We changed the key to break up the melody of the song. Looking good so far.

So far we have written **Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus**. Do you remember what comes next? Yes, it is the **Bridge**. The **Bridge** is a different section of your song. It is meant to provide a change for the listener. Both melodically and lyrically.

So, let's give it a try. I am going to change up the normal melody of the song to sound a bit different but still sound like it belongs.

Bridge

A- C G A-
A little bit of nothing helps to keep me straight.

A- C G A-
Honesty's a virtue, now ain't that great.

A- C G A-
Life comes in pieces from day to day.

C G F C
A little bit of time can go a long, long way.

Do you see how different it sounds in departing from the rest of the song? Google "the bridge of a song" and get an expanded description.

Now, we repeat the **Chorus** one last time.

Chorus

F C E- A-
A small amount of something is better than none.

F C E- A-
A little bit of heartache is not much fun.

F C E- A-
One good woman is so hard to find.

F C G A-
A little bit of love keeps them on my mind.

F C G A-
A little bit of love keeps them on my mind.

I repeated the last line for the last **Chorus**. This gives the lyrics more importance. That is of course optional.

All that is left is the **Outro**. The **Outro** is almost always purely instrumental so I will wrap up with some of the same chords from the song.

C E- A- F C G
C E- A- F C G A-

I hope you have enjoyed this practical method of songwriting. I also hope that you can build on this example to get started.

If you have any questions, please email me at wes@songwritersportal.com. You can also visit our website at

songwritersportal.com. We provide services for songwriters around the planet.

Some of our services are:

1. Month to month and annual memberships. Upload four songs per month. Your songs will be pitched to music industry professionals provided the songs are approved.
2. In-Studio Professional Demos. Take your song to the next level. Have your song performed, mixed, and mastered by world class musicians. You will receive a digital copy that is radio ready. You own all rights to the song.
3. Melody for your Lyrics. Do you write lyrics, but you can't play and instrument? We can create the melody for your song, mix and master it. We will send you a digital, radio ready version. You retain all rights to the song.
4. Professional Vocals. Cannot sing? No problem. We can provide professional singers to add a vocal track to your song.

The list goes on. Check us out at songwritersportal.com
