

# Blues and jazz







## I. Blues

1- listen to the extract and fill in the grid

**Robert Johnson – Sweet home Chicago**

First feelings : \_\_\_\_\_



 Instruments / Voices	 Tempo	Style	 Geographic area	 Period

This song appears in the movie *The blues brothers* in a modern style. What differences do you notice ? \_\_\_\_\_

2- What is the song about ? Try to understand the lyrics. What do you notice ?

**Robert Johnson – Love in vain**

I followed (her) to the \_\_\_\_\_, with a \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_ (x \_\_\_\_\_ )

Well, it's \_\_\_\_\_ to tell, it's \_\_\_\_\_ to tell when all your \_\_\_\_\_'s in vain, all my love's \_\_\_\_\_

When the \_\_\_\_\_ roll up to the \_\_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_\_ her in the \_\_\_\_\_ (x \_\_\_\_\_)

Well, I was so \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ so lonesome and I could not help but \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_

When the \_\_\_\_\_, it \_\_\_\_\_ the station, with \_\_\_\_\_ lights on \_\_\_\_\_ (x \_\_\_\_\_)

Well, the \_\_\_\_\_ light was my \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ light was my \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_

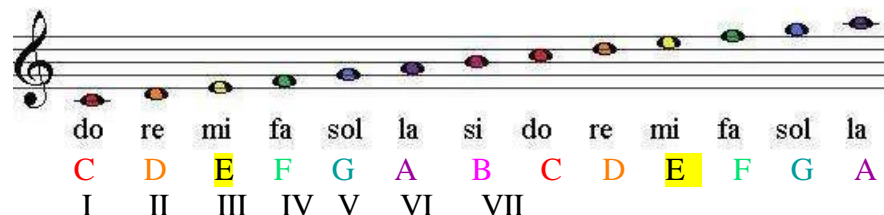
This song tells us that \_\_\_\_\_, blues' lyrics are often sad or desperate, about work, money, alcohol or love.

### 3- The Grid (chord sequence)

What is a chord ? A chord is made of three notes or more, played at the same time and which sound harmonious together. The most simple chords are made by playing one note out of two on a keyboard. Examples :

To play a C chord, you play C + E + G

What will I play to get a F chord ? a G chord ?



### B.B. King – Woke up this morning

Raise your hand when you hear that the chord is changing. Then we will complete the grid (from left to right and from top to bottom). Each box counts four beats.

I			



### What is blues ?

This musical style comes from the work songs of slaves in the South of the United States. It was created during the 19th century and the songs often tell about sadness, love or desires.

Because of its origins, blues is very simple : there are only 3 chords used in the grid and the lyrics are repetitive. The instruments have to be practical and cheap. They use a guitar, a banjo and sometimes a harmonica.

A work song ⇒ *Hammer ring* (prisoner's song = chain gang)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dx5yC4LBR5M&t=10s>

## II. Jazz

Blues is one of the roots of jazz. Listen to this piece and list the differences between this music and the ones that you heard before .

**Duke Ellington** - *C jam blues* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOlpcJhNyDI>



Blues	Jazz

**Charlie Parker** - *Tico Tico* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lguEshhurg8>



This music is a **musical cross breeding** (includes mixed origins). Which style do you recognize ? \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

Which other style can you hear ? \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

Nowadays, this jazz style with lots of musical cross breedings is called « Fusion ». Listen to *Blast* by **Marcus Miller**. Which influences do you notice ? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN7HrvBAf00>



# III. The song

## Nina Simone – *Feeling good* (Cover by Muse)

Birds flyin' high, you know how I feel  
Sun in the sky, you know how I feel  
Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life for me, yeah  
And I'm feeling good

Fish in the sea, you know how I feel  
River running free, you know how I feel  
Blossom on the tree, you know how I feel

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life, for me  
And I'm feeling good

Dragonfly out in the sun  
You know what I mean, don't you know?  
Butterflies all havin' fun  
You know what I mean  
Sleep in peace when day is done  
That's what I mean

And this old world is a new world  
And a bold world, for me, yeah, yeah



Stars when you shine, you know how I feel  
Scent of the pine, you know how I feel  
Oh, freedom is mine  
And I know how I feel

It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life for me  
Oh, I'm feeling good

*Playing the Bass' Riff*