



Music Virtual Learning

8th Grade Guitar

April 10, 2020



8th Grade Guitar

Lesson: April 10, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will understand the difference between nylon and steel strings and which types of music they are used for.

Types of Strings

In a previous lesson you learned about the evolution of guitar and one of the things that was mentioned was the different kinds of strings used in various time periods.

The main types of strings used today are nylon and steel strings. While both of these materials are useful and can be used to play just about any style, each type of string has different qualities that allow it to be better suited for certain styles or sounds.

Nylon vs Steel Strings

The presenter in this video will talk about the differences between the two types of strings and explain a little about the difference in sound between the two.

[Nylon vs Steel Strings](#)

Nylon Strings



- Nylon is a type of plastic that is used in things like clothes, rope, car parts, and of course guitar strings.
- Nylon strings are typically used with classical guitars
- When using nylon strings for a guitar, 3 of them are regular nylon while 3 of them are nylon wrapped in a metal casing for strength
- Nylon strings create a warmer or fuller sound than steel strings

Nylon Strings Example

Here is an example of a guitar being played with nylon strings. This example is in a classical style.

[Nylon Strings: Classical Guitar Example](#)

Steel Strings



- Steel strings can be made of different metals. Some of the most common metals used are nickel, bronze, or cobalt.
- Steel strings create a brighter sound than nylon
- Steel strings are used more often in styles like rock, folk, and blues
- Steel strings can be used in electric or acoustic guitars

Steel Strings Example

Here is an example of a guitar being played with steel strings. This example is in a blues style.

[Steel Strings Guitar Blues Example](#)

Reflection

- 1.) Why do you think nylon strings are better suited for classical styles than others?
- 2.) Which sound do you prefer? The warm, darker sound of nylon strings or the bright, lighter sound of steel strings? Why?
- 3.) Centuries ago they would use animal intestines as strings. What other materials that we have today do you think might be good for guitar strings and how do you think those sounds would compare to nylon or steel? (Experiment with different materials you may have around the house)

For those with a guitar...

Here is lesson 3 from the YouTube series that was shared earlier:

[Learn to Play Guitar Lesson 3](#)