
UKULELE JAMBOREE SONGBOOK

A COMPILATION OF EASY SONGS FOR UKULELE PLAYERS OF ALL AGES
AND ABILITIES TO PLAY



Contents with chords for each song

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Kookaburra (Trad. Australian)

Strum C chord on the beat.
Singing starts on G

Verse 1

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Merry, merry king of the bush is he,
Laugh, Kookaburra, Laugh, Kookaburra,
Happy your life must be.

Verse 2

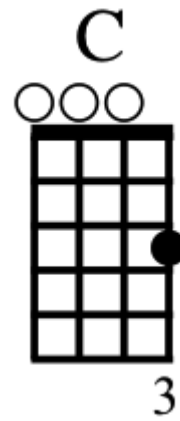
Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree
Eating all the gumdrops he can see
Stop, Kookaburra, Stop, Kookaburra
Leave some there for me.

Verse 3

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Counting all the monkeys he can see
Stop, Kookaburra, Stop, Kookaburra,
That's no monkey, that's me.

Verse 4

Kookaburra sits on the ol' train track,
Along comes a train and knocks him flat, *(slower)*
Poor Kookaburra, Poor Kookaburra, *(pause)*
That's the end of that! *THWACK!* *(hit the strings gently)*



2.It Ain't Gonna Rain

Strum chords on the beat (4 beats in a bar) D Du D Du works well too!

Singing starts on A

Verse 1

Oh it [F] ain't gonna rain no more, no more it ain't gonna rain no [C7] more,
It ain't gonna rain and it ain't gonna snow, it ain't gonna rain no [F] more.

Verse 2

How much [F] wood could a wood chuck chuck, if a wood chuck could chuck [C7] wood?
If you put a saw in his tiny paw, a tonne of wood he [F] could.

Verse 3

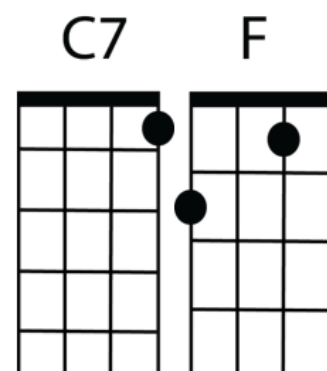
A [F] peanut sat on a railroad track, his heart was all a [C7] flutter,
A train came roaring round the bend, toot toot peanut [F] butter.

Verse 4 (posh voices, like the queen)

Oh it [F] isn't going to rain anymore, oh it isn't going to rain any [C7] more,
The grammar's good but the song's a bore, so we'll sing it like be [F] fore.

Verse 1 (again)

Oh it [F] ain't gonna rain no more, no more it ain't gonna rain no [C7] more,
It ain't gonna rain and it ain't gonna snow, it ain't gonna rain no [F] more. [FFF]



La Cucaracha

Strum chords on the beat (4 in a bar)

Singing starts on C

123

F

C

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; that's our catchy little song,

C

F

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; while we're galloping along.

F

C

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; you can hear it far and wide,

C

F

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; everywhere the rebels hide!

F

C

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; crawling underneath the sink,

C

F

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; now you're swimming in my drink!

F

C

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; crawling underneath my bed,

C

F

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; on my pillow on my head!

F

C

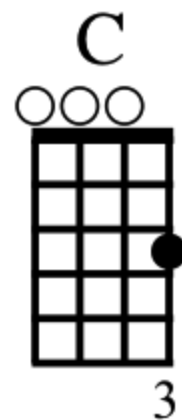
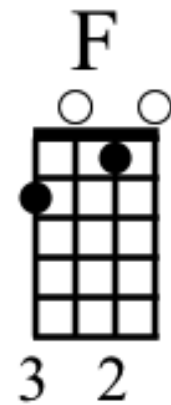
La cucaracha, la cucaracha; that's our catchy little song,

C

F

F F F Strum Strum Strum

La cucaracha, la cucaracha; while we're galloping along!



Cockles and Mussels (Trad. Irish)

Strum chords on the beat (3 beats in a bar)

Singing starts on C

F C

In Dublin's fair city, where the girls are so pretty

F C

I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone

F C

As she wheeled her wheelbarrow, though streets broad and narrow

F C7 F

Crying "Cockles and Mussels a-live a live – o."



Chorus

F C
A-live, A-live-o, A-live, A-live-o,
F C7 F
Crying "Cockles and Mussels a-live a live-o"

F C
She was a fishmonger, but sure was to wonder

F C

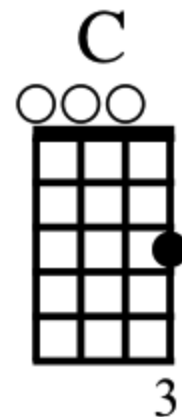
For so were her mother and father before

F C

They drove their wheelbarrows, though streets broad and narrow

F C7 F

Crying "Cockles and Mussels a-live a live-o"



Chorus

SLOWER..

F C
She died of a fever, and nothing could save her

F C

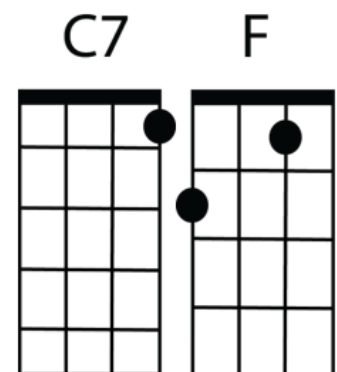
And that was the end of poor Molly Malone

F C

Her ghost wheels a barrow, though streets broad and narrow

F C7 F

Crying "Cockles and Mussels a-live a live-o"



Chorus at normal speed to finish

The Lincolnshire Poacher (Trad.)

Strum chords on the beat (2 beats in a bar)

Singing starts on C



When [F] I was bound apprentice in famous [C] Lincoln [F] shire,
Full well I serv'd my master, for more than seven [C] year,
Till [F] I took up to poaching, as you shall quickly [C] hear.
Oh, 'tis my [F] delight on a shining night, in the season [C] of the [F] year.

As me and my companions was setting [C] out a [F] snare,
'Twas then we spied the gamekeeper – for him we did not [C] care,
For [F] we can wrestle and fight, my boys, and jump o'er any [C] where.
Oh, 'tis [F] my delight on a shining night, in the season [C] of the [F] year.

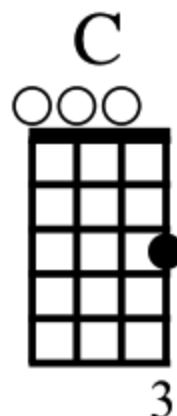
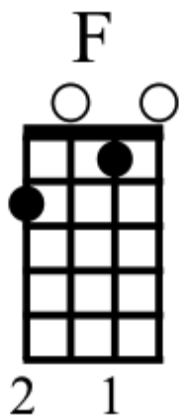
As [F] me and my companions were setting [C] four or [F] five,
And taking on 'em up again, we caught a hare a [C] live,
We [F] took the hare alive, my boys, and through the woods did [C] steer.
Oh, 'tis my [F] delight on a shining night, in the season [C] of the [F] year.

We [F] threw him over my shoulder, and then we [C] trudged on [F] home,
We took him to a neighbour's house, and sold him for a [C] crown,
We [F] sold him for a crown, my boys, but I did not tell you [C] where.
Oh, 'tis my [F] delight on a shining night, in the season [C] of the [F] year.

Success [F] to every gentleman that lives in [C] Lincoln [F] shire
Success to every poacher that wants to sell a [C] hare,
Bad [F] luck to every gamekeeper that will not sell his [C] deer.
Oh, 'tis [F] my delight on a shining night, in the season [C] of the [F] year.

Listen to' The Spinners' perform this piece

<https://youtu.be/KBvBKRBP49E>



Leaning on a Lamp Post (George Formby)

Strum chords on the beat

(or a quick D Du D Du 4 in a bar) *Singing starts on high C*

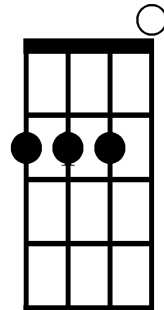
C
I'm leaning on a lamp post
C
At the corner of the street
G7 C
In case a certain little lady comes by
D C
Oh me Oh my
G7 D G7
I hope the little lady comes by

C
I don't know if I'll get away
C
She doesn't always get away
G7 C
But anyhow I know that she'll try

F
I'm leaning on a lamp post
At the corner of the street
C G7 C G7 C
In case a certain little lady comes by

George Formby was an English actor, comedian and songwriter. He popularised the ukulele (banjolele) in the 1930s and 40s with his many performances and became the highest paid entertainer of his time.

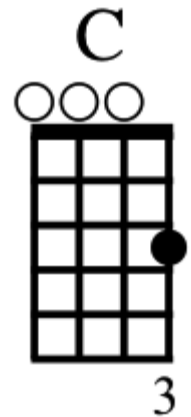
D



500 Miles (The Proclaimers)

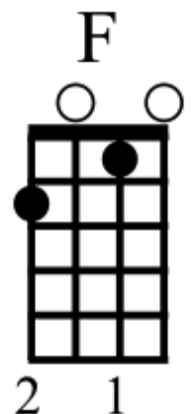
Strum chords on the beat (4 in a bar) *Singing starts on E*

C
 When I wake up, well I know I'm gonna be
G7 **C**
 I'm gonna be the man who wakes up next to you
C
 When I go out, yeah I know I'm gonna be
G7 **C**
 I'm gonna be the man who goes along with you



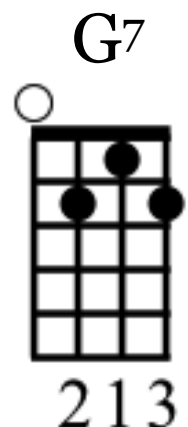
CHORUS

C
 But I would walk 500 miles
F **G7**
 And I would walk 500 more
C **F**
 Just to be the man who walked a thousand miles
G7
 To fall down at your door



C
 Da da da dah! (echo)
C
 Da da da dah! (echo)
F **G7** **C**
 Da da dan Da da dan dada dan da da da da dah!
 (repeat da da da dahs)

C
 When I'm working, yes I know I'm gonna be
G7 **C**
 I'm gonna be the man who working hard for you
C
 And when the money, comes in for the work I do
G7 **C**
 I'll pass almost every penny on to you



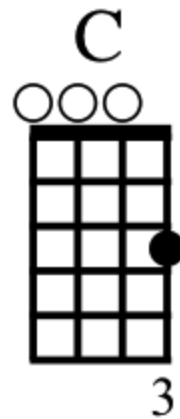
CHORUS (repeat and fade)

This Land Is Your Land (Holmfirth version)

Strum pattern D Du D Du *Singing starts on C*

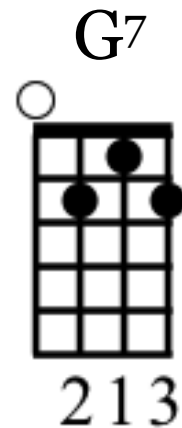
Verse 1

F
C
 As I was walking on the ribbon of highway
G7
C
 I saw above me that endless skyway
F
C
 I saw below me our lovely valley
G7
C
 This land belongs to you and me



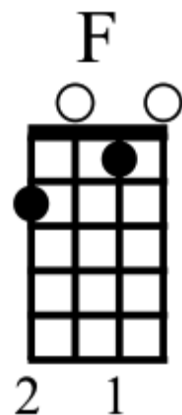
CHORUS

F
 This land is your land
C
 This land is my land
G7
 From Norridge Bottom
C
 To the Holme at Sands
F
 From lonely Wolfstones
C
 To the heights of Holme Moss Pass
G7
C
 This land belongs to you and me



Verse 2

F
C
 When the sun comes shining, and I am strolling
G7
C
 And the hayfields waving and the great clouds rolling
F
C
 As the fog was lifting a voice was singing
G7
C
 This land was made for you and me **CHORUS**



Woodie Guthrie wrote over 1000 thousand folk songs of which This Land Is Your Land, 1940 is probably the most well-known.

Budapest - George Ezra

Try it with a calypso style strum (4 in a bar)

D D U_ U D U *Singing starts on G*



Verse 1

C

My house in Budapest,

My, my hidden treasure chest

Golden grand piano, My beautiful castilo

Pre chorus x2

F

You, Ooh you

C

I'd leave it all (x2)

Verse 2

C

My acres of a land, That I've achieved

It may be hard for you to, Stop and believe

Pre chorus x2

F

But for you, Ooh you

C

I'd leave it all

Chorus

F

Give me one good reason why I should ever make a change

C

F

C

Baby if you hold me then all of this will go away

Repeat verse one and pre chorus x2

Gospel Medley -

Strum chords on the beat (4 in a bar)

Singing starts on C

C

Swing low sweet chariot

G7

Coming for to carry me home

C

F

Swing low sweet chariot

C

G7 C

Coming for to carry me home

C

Oh, when the saints, go marching in,

G7

Oh, when the saints go marching in

C

F

I wanna be in that number

C

G7 C

Oh, when the saints go marching in

C

I'm gonna sing, sing, sing, I'm gonna dance, dance, dance

G7

I'm gonna sing. I'm gonna dance, Allelu!

C

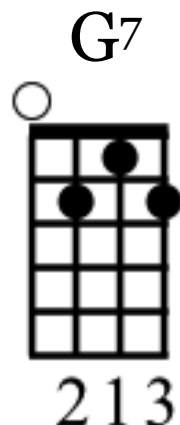
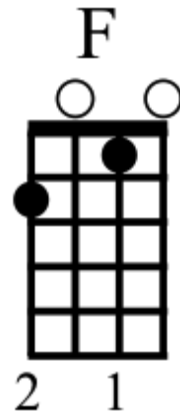
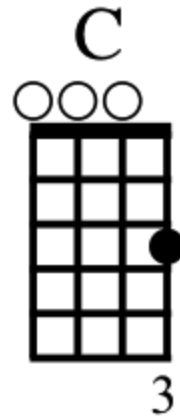
F

When the gates are open wide, I'll be standing by your side

C

G7 C

I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna dance, Allelu!



Drunken Sailor

Strum chords on the beat
(D DU D DU- 4 beats in a bar) *Singing starts on A*

Verse 1

Dm

What shall we do with the drunken sailor

C

What shall we do with the drunken sailor

Dm

What shall we do with the drunken sailor

C Dm

Early in the morning



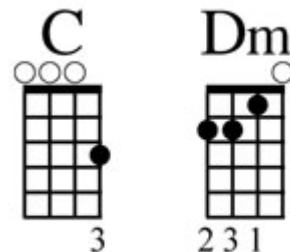
CHORUS

[Dm]Hooray and up she rises

[C]Hooray and up she rises

[Dm]Hooray and up she rises

[C] Early in the [Dm]morning



Verse 2

Dm

Put him in the scuppers with the hose pipe on him

C

Put him in the scuppers with the hosepipe on him

Dm

Put him in the scuppers with the hosepipe on him

C Dm

Early in the morning

Verse 3

Dm

Throw him in the ocean and make him swim home

C

Throw him in the ocean and make him swim home

Dm

Throw him in the ocean and make him swim home

C Dm

Early in the morning

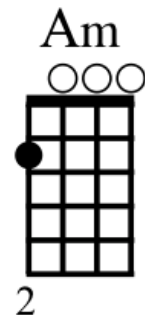
El Condor Pasa

This is a Peruvian song with lyrics by Simon and Garfunkel

Slow strum on a minim beat or make an arpeggio pattern by splitting the chords into single notes *Singing starts on E*

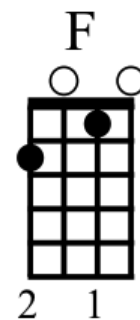
Verse 1

Am **C**
 I'd rather be a sparrow than a snail
Am **Am**
 Yes I would, if I could, I surely would
Am **C**
 I'd rather be a hammer than a nail
Am **Am**
 Yes I would, if I only could, I surely would



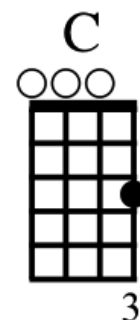
CHORUS

<p>CHORUS F Away, I'd rather sail away C Like a swan that's here and gone F A man gets tied up to the ground C He gives the world it's saddest sound Am Am It's saddest sound</p>



Verse 2

Am **C**
 I'd rather be a forest than a street
Am **Am**
 Yes I would, if I could, I surely would
Am **C**
 I'd rather feel the ground beneath my feet
Am **Am**
 Yes I would, if I only could, I surely would



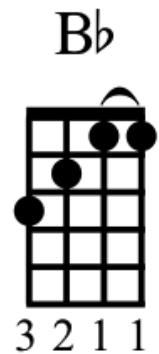
CHORUS slowing down at the end

Red River Valley

Cowboy hats at the ready. Strum to a swing rhythm in 4 time

Singing starts on C

F
From this valley they say you are leaving
F C
We shall miss your bright eyes and sweet smile
F Bb
For you take with you all of the sunshine
C F
That has brightened our pathway a while



CHORUS

F
Then come sit by my side if you love me
F C
Do not hasten to bid me adieu
F (F7) Bb
Just remember the Red River Valley
C F
And the cowboy that's loved you so true

F
For a long time, my darling, I've waited
F C
For the sweet words you never would say
F Bb
Now at last all my fond hopes have vanished
C F
For they say you are going away

Chorus

F
Do you think of the valley you're leaving
F C
Oh how lonely and drear it will be
F Bb
Do you think of the kind hearts you're breaking
C F
And the pain you are causing to me

Chorus

Catch A Falling Star (Perry Como)

Strum chords in 4 time on the beat *Singing starts on E*

CHORUS

C	G7 C	G7
Catch a falling star and *put it in your pocket		
C	G7 C	
Never let it fade away		
C	G7 C	G7
Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket		
C	G7 C	
Save it for a rainy day		



Verse 1

F	
For love my come and tap you on the shoulder	
C	G7 C
Some starless night	
F	
And just in case you feel you wanna hold her	
G7 (single strum)	
You'll have a pocket full of starlight	

CHORUS

Verse 2

F	
For when your troubles start a multiplying	
C	G7 C
And they just might	
F	
It's easy to forget them without trying	
G7	
With just a pocket full of starlight	

CHORUS

Sounds great as a two-part round. Person 2 starts here *
Ending with last line three times

Down By the Riverside (Spritual)

1 2, 123 strum pattern a mix of D DU D DU and D DU- UDU

Singing starts on E

Verse 1

C

Gonna lay down by sword and shield

Down by the riverside

G7

Down by the riverside

C

Down by the riverside

Gonna lay down my sword and shield

Down by the riverside

G7 C C7

Gonna study war no more

CHORUS

Verse 2

I'm gonna lay down my burden

Down by the riverside

Down by the riverside

I'm gonna lay down my burden

Down by the riverside

Gonna study war no more

CHORUS

Verse 3

I'm gonna shake hands around the world

Down by the riverside

Down by the riverside

I'm gonna shake hands around the world

Down by the riverside

Gonna study war no war

CHORUS

Repeat verse 1 and CHORUS to finish

(G7 chord can be replaced with G in this song)

CHORUS

F

Ain't gonna study war no more

C

Aint gonna study war no more

G7 C C7

Study war, no more

F

Ain't gonna study war no more

C

Ain't gonna study war no more

G7 C

Study war, no more

Dance the Night Away -The Mavericks

Spanish sounding strum pattern in 4 time D DU -UDU.
Singing starts on C

Verse 1

[F] Here comes my [C7] happiness a[F] gain
[C7]

[F] Right back to [C7] where it should have [F]
been [C7]

[F] 'Cause now she's [C7] gone and I am[F]
free [C7]

[F]And she can't [C7]do a thing to [F] me [C7]



CHORUS

CHORUS

F C7 F C7

Just wanna dance the night away

F C7 F C7

With señoritas who can sway

F C7 F C7

Right now tomorrow's looking bright

F C7 F C7

Just like the sunny morning's light

Verse 2

[F]And if you should [C7] she her, [F]please let her know [C7]

That I'm [F] well [C7] - as you can [F] tell [C7]

And [F] if she should [C7] tell you, that [F]she wants me back [C7]

Tell [F] her "no" [C7] - I gotta [F] go [C7]

CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL shakers and percussion solos

Verse 3

[F]And if you should [C7] she her, [F]please let her know [C7]

That I'm [F] well [C7] - as you can [F] tell [C7]

And [F] if she should [C7] tell you, that [F]she wants me back [C7]

Tell [F] her "no" [C7] - I gotta [F] go [C7]

Repeat CHORUS and fade to finish

Lets Twist Again - Kal Mann and Dave Appell



INTRO - strumming C chords quavers up &down 1+2+3+4+

Leader spoken: Come on everybody!
 Strum your ukes!!
 Looking good!

**All: I'm gonna sing my song! It won't take long!
 We're gonna do the twist, and it goes like this:**

CHORUS

C

Come on let's twist again,

Am

Like we did last summer!

F

Yeaaaah, let's twist again,

G7

Like we did last year!

C

Do you remember when,

Am

Things were really hummin',

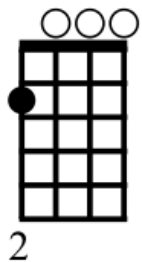
F

Yeaaaah, let's twist again,

C

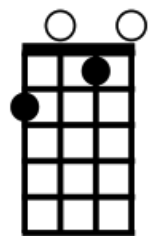
Twistin' time is here!

Am



2

F



2 1

F

C

Round and round and up and down we go again!

F

G7

Baby, make me know you love me sooooo!

CHORUS and on to next section

strumming up &down again on C Chord 1+2+3+4+

Leader: Who's that, flyin' up there? Is it a bird?

All: (Noooooo!)

Leader: Is it a plane?

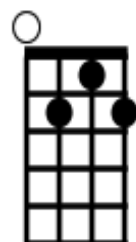
All: (Nooooooooo!)

Leader: Is it the twister?

All: (YEAAAAAAAAHH!)

Back to the Chorus for one last time!

G7



2 1 3

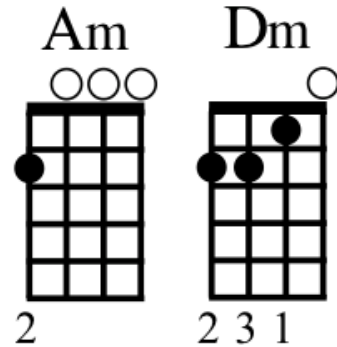
Wild Mountain Thyme- Frances McPeake

Have a listen to Ed Sheeran or Kate Rusby sing this traditional folksong.

Slow softer strums work best *Singing starts on E*

Verse 1

C F C
 Oh the summer time is coming
F C
 And the trees are sweetly blooming
F G Am
 And the wild mountain thyme
Dm F
 Grows around the blooming heather
C F C
 Would you go lassie go? **Chorus**



Verse 2

C F C
 Will you build your love a bower
F C
 And yon clear crystal fountain
F G Am
 And around it I will place
Dm F
 All the colours of the mountain
C F C
 Would you go lassie go? **Chorus**

CHORUS

F C
 And we'll all go together
F G Am
 To pull wild mountain thyme
Dm F
 All around the blooming heather
C F C
 Would you go lassie go?

Verse 3

C F C
 If my true love she'll not come
F C
 I will surely find another
F G Am
 To pull wild mountain thyme
Dm F
 All around the blooming heather
C F C
 Would you go lassie go? **Chorus x 2. Sing last line again slowly at end.**

Rock Around the Clock (Bill Haley & the Comets)



C (one strum) *Sing a C*

One, two, three o'clock, four o'clock, rock,
C (one strum)

Five, six, seven o'clock, eight o'clock, rock,
C (one strum)

Nine, ten, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock, rock,
G7 G7 G7 G7 pick up D Du D DU

We're gonna rock around the clock tonight.

C

Put your glad rags on and join me, hon,

We'll have some fun when the clock strikes one,

CHORUS

F(7)*

We're gonna rock around the clock tonight,

C

We're gonna rock, rock, rock, 'til broad daylight.

G7

C

We're gonna rock, gonna rock, around the clock tonight.

C

When the clock strikes two, three and four,
If the band slows down we'll yell for more,

CHORUS

C

When the chimes ring five, six and seven,
We'll be right in seventh heaven.

CHORUS

C

When it's eight, nine, ten, eleven too,
I'll be goin' strong and so will you.

CHORUS

C

When the clock strikes twelve, we'll cool off then,
Start a rockin' round the clock again.

CHORUS

*optional 7th