**HUM WHILE YOU STRUM - Learning Chords &the importance of humming!**

* Apologies if this is basic for some who are experienced teachers!
* Learning involves PERCEPTION & COGNITION.
* What we EXPERIENCE (Sight, Sound, Touch, Taste & Smell) & what we make of those experiences.
* A major factor in learning is MEMORY RECALL.
* If we are confused by an experience & find it difficult to understand, our brain is often unsure where to store it in our memory – ENCODING – bit like computers & file names!
* Memory recall can be stimulated by a combination of STIMULI:

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| VISUAL(Sight - Symbols, Images) | AURAL(Hearing - Sounds) |
| SENSORY(Touch, Taste, Smell, Body sensations/movement) |

* Applying these ideas to playing chords this is a useful MNEMONIC:

Happy = HEAR a song

Members = MEMO RY RECALL of tune

Happily = HUMMING the tune

Strumming = STRUMMING the chords

* HEARING a tune directs one’s mind to the sound of the chord which should be played. HUMMING the tune means we remember it.
* As with learning to read, matching the PATTERNS of chords (VISUAL) to the names of the SOUND (AURAL) & the RHYTHM of a tune (SENSORY) means we build an AURAL VOCABULARY.
* Listening to songs we want to learn & being able to accurately hum the tune is the best way to learn how to play the chords to the song – **DEMO with HAPPY BIRTHDAY** – Play wrong chords first while humming G,D,G,C,G,D,G