

Should I learn to read music?

Written by Mike Dean

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When I hear this question I assume the person is referring to standard musical notation.



This happens to be the way that I learned (I learned the piano from age 8 to 15 and then moved on to guitar) so its hard to imagine learning the guitar without first learning to read music. So, what I can do is tell you what parts of reading music I find most useful as a guitarist (these are the parts that I teach my students).

- Time signatures and Rythm le. beats per measure, beats for each type of note (in 4/4 time, quarter notes get 1 count, eighth notes get 1/2 count and so on)
- Music notes le. there are 7 notes in a major scale, each note is either a full step or half step away from the previous note, etc.
- Notes that are used to make different chords.

In conclusion I think it's a great idea to learn to read music. If anything, it allows you to learn new songs even when you only have access to the sheet music.