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The Music Teacher's

# Lesson Design Prompt Library

Starter Kit · 2 Free Prompts

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*Stop getting generic lesson plans from AI.  
Start getting ones that actually work.*

# How This Works (It Takes About 5 Minutes)

No instructional design degree needed. No AI setup. These prompts do the pedagogy for you.

- 1 Pick the prompt that matches your task.** This kit has 2. Prompt 1 builds a full lesson from scratch. Prompt 2 designs a focused rehearsal or practice session.
- 2 Choose your scaffolding mode** at the top of the prompt: Guided, Standard, or Expert. This controls how much the lesson scaffolds your students, not the format of the output. See the reference below.
- 3 Copy the entire prompt** and paste it into any free AI tool. ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini all work. The prompt asks you the right questions before it writes anything.
- 4 Answer the questions it asks you** about your students, your topic, and your time. Then it generates a plan you can actually teach.

What makes these prompts different from typing "write me a lesson plan": they tell the AI exactly how learning works before it writes a single word. Every plan it generates will have a real hook, a way to build on what students already know, at least two ways to present the new content, graduated practice with feedback built in, and a moment at the end where students actually use what they learned. You do not need to know the research behind that structure. The prompt knows it for you.

## WHAT EACH SCAFFOLDING MODE BUILDS

**Guided** Explicit instruction, heavy teacher modeling, worked examples, frequent checks for understanding. For students who need more structure or when the topic is new.

**Standard** Balanced teacher/student load, graduated practice moving from supported to independent. For most lessons and most learners.

**Expert** High student autonomy, inquiry-based tasks, transfer-level application, minimal explicit instruction. For learners ready to lead their own learning.

# The Full Lesson Builder

Turns any topic into a complete, structured lesson plan. The flagship prompt in the library.

## WHAT THIS PRODUCES

*A complete lesson plan with five structured sections: a real-world hook that gives students a reason to care, an activation that surfaces what they already know, a demonstration that shows the content in at least two formats, a graduated application sequence (guided to independent), and an integration moment where students prove they can use the knowledge beyond the lesson. Every section includes the Bloom's level, UDL access options, and a motivation check confirming students have genuine choice, a sense of competence, and a reason to care.*

## YOUR DETAILS (YOU WILL FILL THESE IN WHEN THE AI ASKS)

<b>Subject:</b> _____
<b>Specific topic:</b> _____
<b>Grade level or age range:</b> _____
<b>Lesson length:</b> _____
<b>Anything specific about your students:</b> _____
<b>Scaffolding mode (Guided / Standard / Expert):</b> _____

**COPY THIS ENTIRE PROMPT INTO CHATGPT, CLAUDE, OR GEMINI**

You are an experienced instructional designer who has spent years in real classrooms. You design lessons grounded in how people actually learn. Your approach builds every lesson around a real problem worth solving, activates prior knowledge, demonstrates new ideas through multiple formats, gives students graduated practice with feedback, and ends with a transfer moment. Before generating anything, ask me these questions and wait for my answers: (1) Scaffolding mode - Guided (explicit instruction, heavy teacher modeling, frequent checks for understanding), Standard (balanced graduated practice, teacher-led to independent), or Expert (high student autonomy, inquiry-based, transfer-level tasks)? (2) What subject do you teach? (3) What specific topic is this lesson on? (4) What grade level or age range? (5) How long is this lesson? (6) Anything specific about your students I should know? Once I answer, generate a lesson plan with: SECTION 1 - THE HOOK (3-5 min): A real-world problem or question that gives students a reason to care - not a fun fact, the authentic problem the lesson is built around. SECTION 2 - ACTIVATION (3-5 min): A brief activity that surfaces what students already know. Quick-write, prediction, pair-share, or physical sort. SECTION 3 - DEMONSTRATION (10-20 min): Show the new content in at least two different modalities (visual + verbal, demonstration + diagram, etc.). Include one check for understanding before moving on. SECTION 4 - APPLICATION (10-25 min): Graduated practice: Step 1 guided (heavy teacher support), Step 2 collaborative, Step 3 independent. Build in one feedback checkpoint between steps. SECTION 5 - INTEGRATION (3-5 min): A transfer moment where students use what they learned in a new context, connect it to something outside the lesson, or explain it to someone else. For each section, state the Bloom's level. At the end, include ACCESS OPTIONS (2+ ways to receive content, 2+ ways to show learning), a MOTIVATION CHECK (where is there genuine choice, a sense of 'I can do this,' and a connection to something the student cares about), and an ALIGNMENT CHECK (verify Bloom's levels are consistent across instruction and assessment).

# The Quick Rehearsal Plan

For music teachers and performance-based subjects. Turns a skill or piece into a structured practice session that goes beyond warm up, play through, done.

## WHAT THIS PRODUCES

*A session plan with five sections: a targeted warm-up directly connected to today's skill (not generic scales), an activation that surfaces what the student already knows, a focused sprint that isolates and breaks down the specific challenge in at least two demonstration formats with graduated difficulty, an application section that puts the skill into actual repertoire or a musical context, and a choice close with a low-stakes 2-minute share at the end. Includes a motivation check and Bloom's level per section.*

## YOUR DETAILS (YOU WILL FILL THESE IN WHEN THE AI ASKS)

<b>Instrument or performance area:</b> _____
<b>Specific skill or piece:</b> _____
<b>Student level (beginner / intermediate / advanced):</b> _____
<b>Session length:</b> _____
<b>Anything specific about this student:</b> _____
<b>Scaffolding mode (Guided / Standard / Expert):</b> _____

## COPY THIS ENTIRE PROMPT INTO CHATGPT, CLAUDE, OR GEMINI

You are an experienced music educator and instructional designer who has spent years teaching in private studios and group rehearsal settings. You understand that a great practice session is not just playing through material. It is a structured sequence: warm up with purpose, isolate the hard part, build it back into context, and end with something that feels like progress. Before generating anything, ask me these questions and wait for my answers: (1) Scaffolding mode - Guided (explicit instruction, heavy teacher modeling, frequent checks for understanding), Standard (balanced graduated practice, teacher-led to independent), or Expert (high student autonomy, inquiry-based, transfer-level tasks)? (2) What instrument or performance area is this for? (3) What specific skill or piece are we working on today? (4) What is the student's current level? (5) How long is this session? (6) Anything specific about this student I should know? Once I answer, generate a session plan with: SECTION 1 - THE WARM-UP WITH PURPOSE (3-5 min): A warm-up directly connected to today's skill, not generic. Explain to the student why this warm-up matters. SECTION 2 - ACTIVATION (2-3 min): Surface what the student already knows or can do that connects to today's focus. SECTION 3 - THE FOCUSED SPRINT (8-15 min): Isolate the specific challenge. Break it into micro-tasks. Demonstrate in at least two ways (e.g., teacher demo + visual diagram, audio model + fretboard map). Graduated difficulty: Step 1 isolated drill slowly, Step 2 expanded context, Step 3 full tempo attempt. SECTION 4 - THE APPLICATION (8-15 min): Put the skill into actual music or repertoire. After the first attempt, identify one specific improvement and one focus point for the next attempt. SECTION 5 - THE CHOICE AND CLOSE (3-5 min): Offer a genuine choice (free improvisation, theory connection, composition, or a piece they already love), then a 2-minute low-stakes share. For each section, state the Bloom's level. Include ACCESS OPTIONS, a MOTIVATION CHECK confirming genuine student choice, competence-building, and connection to music the student cares about, and an ALIGNMENT CHECK.

WANT MORE?

# Here's What's in the Full Library.

The Starter Kit gives you 2 of the 12 prompts. The full Lesson Design Prompt Library covers everything a teacher needs to plan, differentiate, and assess effectively.

## Tier 1: Foundation (4 Prompts)

The Full Lesson Builder (included free), The Quick Rehearsal Plan (included free), The Hook Generator for three different lesson openers, and The Unit Arc Planner for multi-lesson units with a Bloom's progression from remember through create.

## Tier 3: Assessment & Reflection (4 Prompts)

The Assessment Aligner checks whether your assessment actually tests what you taught. The Rubric Writer generates student-facing rubrics tied to learning targets. The Student Reflection Prompt builds real metacognition. The Teaching Review helps you debrief your own lessons like a professional.

## Tier 2: Differentiation (4 Prompts)

The Access Designer adds UDL access layers to any existing plan. The Choice Board Builder creates structured student-choice grids. The Scaffold Ladder designs tiered activities for mixed-level classrooms. The Interest Bridge connects required curriculum to what students actually care about.

## Built on Real Pedagogy

Every prompt applies four research-backed frameworks (Merrill's First Principles, Bloom's Taxonomy, Universal Design for Learning, and Self-Determination Theory) so you get differentiated, assessment-aligned plans without needing to know the theory yourself.

Also included in the full library: A Pedagogical Framework Overview that explains why these prompts work the way they do. A Quick Reference Guide with all 12 prompts in one-line descriptions. And a Before/After example showing the difference between a generic AI lesson plan and one built with a structured prompt.

Grab the full library at

[bradjeffordmusic.com](http://bradjeffordmusic.com)



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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

*20+ years in the classroom. Hundreds of lesson plans later.  
Now the research does the heavy lifting.*