

**form**— the order of ideas in a piece of music.

The melody determines what the ideas are, not the lyrics.

The first idea you hear is simply given the letter **A** (not to be confused with the pitch A).

If the next idea is the same, then it's also called **A**, if it's different then it's called **B**.

You might hear idea **A** twice, then idea **B** twice. What happens if something totally new and different happens after that? That's **C**, my friend.

Musicians use form letters as a shorthand to talk about and help remember how a piece is put together. "The song goes A A, B B, C C, D D, and then A B."

Listen for form in your favorite music!