

Popular music includes:

- POP
- ROCK
- RAP
- HIP HOP
- REGGAE

Plus many other genres, e.g. soul, ska, heavy metal, R&B, country, rock’n’roll.

FUSION: when two different styles are mixed together. This can be two styles of popular music e.g. ‘rap metal’, or could combine a popular music genre with other styles, folk-rock, gospel, world music, classical to create a new and interesting sound. **Jazz fusion** (jazz and pop) is a popular genre.

Instruments

- ELECTRIC GUITAR:**
- **Lead guitar:** plays the melody/ solos/riffs
 - **Rhythm guitar:** plays the chords/ accompaniment.

BASS GUITAR: plays the bass line.

DRUM KIT: provides the beat.

LEAD SINGER: the main vocalist.

BACKING VOCALS: singers who provide harmony.

Pop/rock groups may also include **acoustic** (not electric) instruments e.g. trumpet, trombone, saxophone and/or electronic keyboards/synthesizers.

Features and techniques found in popular music

Riff	A short, repeated pattern.
Hammer on	Finger brought sharply down onto the string.
Pitch bend	Altering (bending) the pitch slightly.
Power chords	A guitar chord using the root and 5 th note (no 3 rd).
Distortion	An effect which distorts the sound (creates a ‘grungy’ sound).
Slap bass	A percussive sound on the bass guitar made by bouncing the strings on the fret board.
Fill	A short, improvised drum solo.
Rim shot	Rim and head of drum hit at same time.
Belt	A bright, powerful vocal sound, high in the chest voice.
Falsetto	Male voice in a higher than usual range.
Syllabic	One note sung per syllable.
Melismatic	Each syllable sung to a number of different notes.
A cappella	Voices singing without instrumental accompaniment.

The structure of a pop/rock song may include:

INTRO: short opening section, usually instrumental.

VERSE: same music but different lyrics each time.

CHORUS: repeated with the same lyrics each time (refrain).

MIDDLE EIGHT: a link section, often eight bars, with different musical ideas.

BRIDGE: a link/transition between two sections.

OUTRO: an ending to finish the song (coda).

*You may also hear a pre-chorus, instrumental interlude or instrumental solo.

*Strophic songs, 32 bar songs (AABA) and 12 bar blues are also found in popular music.

A typical rock ballad in verse-chorus form could follow the pattern:

- Intro
- Verse 1
- Chorus
- Verse 2
- Chorus
- MiddleEight
- Chorus
- Outro

Technology

Amplified	Made louder (with an amplifier).
Synthesized	Sounds created electronically.
Panning	Moving the sound between left and right speakers.
Phasing	A delay effect.
Sample	A short section of music that is reused (e.g. looped, layered).
Reverb	An electronic echo effect.