

Melodic Phrase Composition Guidelines

(keep in mind, these are guidelines - NOT RULES)

To create a melodic phrase (the stuff melodies and guitar solos are made of):

1. Start on a note in the chord.
2. IF skipping notes in the scale, only skip TO another note in the chord. From there, you may pause, jump to another chord tone, or continue through the scale until you reach another chord tone.
3. IF walking through the scale, continue through the scale until you reach another chord tone. From there, you may pause, jump to another chord tone, or continue walking through the scale until you reach another chord tone.

For this exercise, we're going to use a **I - IV** chord progression in the key of C

C Scale: C D E F G A B C
I chord: C(root) E(3rd) G(5th)
IV chord: F(root) A(3rd) C(5th)

In this example, I've chosen to walk only.

C D E F
C chord F chord
| 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |

In this example, I've chosen to skip only

E G C A
C chord F chord
| 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |

In this example, I've chosen to walk first, then skip

C D E C A
C chord F chord
| 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + | 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + |