

UNIT: UKULELE

ACT-BASED ENGLISH: COMPARING INSTRUMENT DESIGN ARTICLES

OBJECTIVE:

Analyze and compare different **ukulele designs** and their impact on sound quality.

ACT SCORE TARGET: 29-33**MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Printed or digital copies of the two articles
- Highlighter or pen
- Comparison chart or graphic organizer
- ACT-style question sheet or digital quiz

STUDENT DIRECTIONS:**Goal:**

You will read and analyze **two informational articles** about different ukulele materials—**traditional wood** and **modern carbon fiber**. Then, you'll compare their designs and how each one affects sound quality, durability, and overall performance. This activity strengthens your **reading comprehension and comparison skills**, especially those needed for ACT Reading questions in the 29–33 score range.

Step 1: Read Both Articles Carefully

You will be given two short, non-fiction texts:

- **Article 1:** Describes traditional wooden ukuleles, including how different types of wood (like koa or mahogany) affect tone, resonance, and visual appeal.
- **Article 2:** Explains the design and benefits of carbon fiber ukuleles, such as durability and stability in various climates.

As you read, **highlight or underline** key details that relate to:

- Sound quality
- Material durability

- Weight or feel of the instrument
- Environmental factors (e.g., humidity, temperature)
- Musicians' preferences

Tip: Look for direct comparisons between the two materials and the author's tone or perspective on each.

Step 2: Compare the Two Ukulele Types

After reading, complete a **comparison chart** or Venn diagram to organize the following:

Feature	Traditional Wooden Ukulele	Carbon Fiber Ukulele
Sound / Tone		
Durability		
Appearance		
Cost		
Environmental Sensitivity		
Musicians' Feedback		

In your own words, summarize the **strengths and weaknesses** of each type of ukulele. Ask yourself:

- Which one is more suitable for traveling musicians?
- Which offers a richer or warmer tone?
- What do professionals prefer, and why?

Step 3: Answer Comprehension Questions

Now, answer ACT-style multiple-choice questions about the articles. These will test your ability to:

- Identify main ideas and supporting details
- Make comparisons and draw conclusions
- Interpret vocabulary in context
- Understand author purpose or tone

ACT-STYLE QUESTION:

- According to the articles, why do some musicians prefer **carbon fiber ukuleles** over wooden ones?
 - A. Carbon fiber ukuleles are heavier, making them more stable.
 - B. They are less affected by humidity and temperature changes.
 - C. Carbon fiber produces a softer, less resonant tone.
 - D. Wooden ukuleles have better durability than carbon fiber ones.