

UNIT: UKULELE

ACT-BASED READING: COMPARING INSTRUMENT DESIGN ARTICLES

OBJECTIVE:

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

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

- Two ukulele design articles (print or digital)
- Comparison chart worksheet
- Pen/highlighter
- ACT Reading-style question sheet

STUDENT DIRECTIONS:**Goal:**

Analyze and compare different ukulele materials and construction methods by reading two informational articles. You'll examine how design choices affect sound quality, durability, and player preference—practicing the same comparison and inference skills tested on the ACT Reading section (score target: 29–33).

Step 1: Read Both Articles Closely**You will be provided with two short articles:**

- Article 1: Traditional Wooden Ukuleles
- Article 2: Modern Carbon Fiber Ukuleles

As you read, annotate the texts by highlighting or underlining the following:

- Construction materials (e.g., mahogany, koa, carbon fiber)
- Impact on sound quality (e.g., tone, volume, resonance)
- Durability & environmental resistance

- Musician preferences or testimonials

Pro Tip: Pay special attention to contrasts between the two instruments. Look for signal words like “unlike,” “however,” or “on the other hand.”

Step 2: Fill Out a Comparison Chart

On your worksheet or in your notes, complete a side-by-side table like this:

Feature	Wooden Ukuleles	Carbon Fiber Ukuleles
Material		
Sound Characteristics		
Sensitivity to Environment		
Cost & Accessibility		
Musician Preferences		

Step 3: Answer ACT-Style Comprehension Questions

You will answer 4–6 ACT-style reading questions based on the texts. These will include:

- Detail-based questions (What does the article say?)
- Inference questions (What can we conclude?)
- Comparison questions (How does one instrument differ from the other?)
- Main idea questions (What is the author’s purpose or tone?)

ACT-STYLE QUESTION:

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