

Yesterday

Words and music by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, from *Help!*



"Yesterday" was one of the Beatles' most popular songs. Both John Lennon and Paul McCartney were credited as authors—but this song is all McCartney.

Tune your guitar down a whole step to match McCartney's recorded version, which sounds in the key of E. (Your G chords tuned down a whole step sound as F chords.) McCartney plucked the strings with his unique approach, shown in the picking pattern below: Grab the bass string with your thumb, then grab the top three strings with your index, middle, and ring fingers. Let all three of your fingers brush the strings as if they're performing a small, upward strum. McCartney often added a walking bass line between

chords—particularly between the Em-Cmaj7 and G-Em7 chord changes on the verses. For the Em-Cmaj7 change, lift your middle finger off the fourth string and play the open string as a passing bass note; for the G-Em7 change, replace your middle finger on the third fret of the sixth string with your index finger on the second fret of the sixth string, and pluck that F# bass note between the G and Em7 chords (on the word "Oh"). On the bridge, McCartney plucks two-note (dyad) groups as shown in the "bridge riff" below, and on the ending, he plays some cool hammer-ons, as shown in the "ending riff." The C, C(2), and C(3) chords are all C chords; they're labeled differently so that you'll know which one to play at any given point in the song, but a standard C will work fine.

Tune Down a Whole Step: **D G C F A D**

Chords

Picking Pattern

Bridge Riff

Ending Riff

- G F#m B7 Em**
Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away

Cmaj7 D7 G
Now it looks as though they're here to stay

Em7 A C G
Oh I believe in yesterday
- G F#m B7 Em**
Suddenly I'm not half the man I used to be

Cmaj7 D7 G
There's a shadow hanging over me

Em7 A C G
Oh yesterday came suddenly

Bridge

F#m B7 Em D C(2) B5 Am6 D7 G
Why she had to go, I don't know, she wouldn't say

F#m B7 Em D C(2) B5 Am6 D7 G
I said something wrong now I long for yesterday

- G F#m B7 Em**
Yesterday love was such an easy game to play

Cmaj7 D7 G
Now I need a place to hide away

Em7 A C G
Oh I believe in yesterday

Repeat Bridge and Verse 3

G A7/G C(3) G
Hm mm mm mm mm mm mm