

# Lockdown

# Blues

**A song-writing activity to  
try out at home**

## Lockdown Blues

Hi, Janet here; I've met some of you in Edlington and Askern during the Creative Directions in the Communities project, singing and writing songs with you. I hope you're well and staying safe in these weird and not so wonderful times.

If you're up for something creative, I'd like to share a bit of an idea with you – I was thinking about the lockdown, what it's meant, its impact on our lives, and how we might feel about it from day to day.

So I wondered about doing a Lockdown Blues – not necessarily just about the negative stuff, and not particularly miserable either – it could be a look at the funnier side of this time period, or some of the great things that have come out of it, such as neighbours looking out for each other, or us all getting out on a Thursday to thank our key workers.

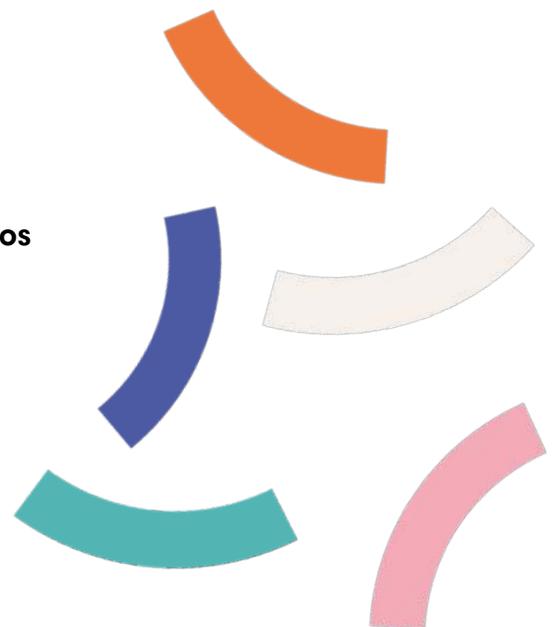
The great thing about a blues is that it can be really simple or as complicated as you want it to be. A dead simple start could be:

**I've got the lock down blues  
I've got the lockdown blues  
Then a line of your own  
I've got the lockdown blues  
Then another line  
I've got the lockdown blues or skip this last repeat if you want to  
make your line longer**

The lines of your own could rhyme, but they don't have to – that's the beauty of this framework.

Here are a couple of examples from the team:

**I've got the lock down blues  
I've got the lockdown blues  
To the bottom of my disinfected one-walk-a-day shoes  
I've got the lockdown blues  
We're round at the shops but there's no paper for our loos**



For some reason, the colour blue is associated with feeling a bit down – so how about the Lockdown Reds? What would they be? Red can represent being angry, but also passionate! And the Lockdown Greens? It's certainly been nice to have less traffic on the roads and hear the birds singing. Or what about the Lockdown Purples with Pink Spots??!!

There are no rules – you don't even have to repeat that first line so much.

Another thing you could do is speed it up – blues music isn't all slow. By speeding up the blues, rock 'n' roll was born – we've just lost Little Richard whose songs Tutti Frutti, Long Tall Sally and Good Golly Miss Molly are all based on the 12-bar blues pattern. They all use lots of repetition and simple rhymes – here's Tutti Frutti:

### **Tutti Frutti Little Richard**

**Whop bop b-luma b-lop bam bom  
Tutti frutti, oh Rudy  
A whop bop b-luma b-lop bam bom**

**I got a gal named Sue  
She knows just what to do  
I got a gal named Sue  
She knows just what to do  
She rocks to the east  
She rocks to the west  
But she's the girl that I love best  
Tutti frutti, oh Rudy...**

**I got a gal named Daisy  
She almost drives me crazy  
I got a gal named Daisy  
She almost drives me crazy  
She knows how to love me, yes indeed  
Boy, you don't know what you do to me**

**Tutti frutti, oh Rudy...**



So if you don't fancy writing about the lockdown, how about a playful rewriting of Tutti Frutti? Edgy Veggie, oh Reggie? Or carry on with some more girls' names – or boys'?

For those of you who play guitar, I've been using E7, A7 and B7 as my three chords, but you don't have to use sevenths, or the same key – C, F and G or G, C and D would also work – whatever fits your voice and playing style.

We would love to see what you create! Remember to follow the guidelines below to record and share your work with us. By sending us your films or sound recordings, you are giving us permission to use them on our website and social media channels.

### Creating the right environment if you're filming/ recording music

A suitable location to host video recordings would be somewhere:

- Quiet, with good sound acoustics
- Light, but not in front of a window or any other light source
- A non-busy backdrop, please check that the images/content of your background don't have photos or anything like post with your address on!
- With good Wi-Fi connection- near your router is best

If you're sending us films or sound recordings, try to send them by email to [amy@thepoint.org.uk](mailto:amy@thepoint.org.uk)

If they are too big to email, you can use WeTransfer (it is free and really easy to use).

Or just tag us on social media:

Instagram – @wearedarts

Facebook – @wearedarts

Twitter – @we\_aredarts

