

How to make a chord chart using Microsoft Word.

(Other word processing software is available).

- Find a reasonably reliable set of lyrics. There are many lyric sites to choose from, often the chords are also provided.
- Try to find lyrics that have been set on a white background, or you could be entering a world of pain.



Folsom Prison Blues lyrics and chords

These country classic song lyrics are the property of the respective artist, authors and labels, they are intended solely for educational purposes and private study only. The chords provided are my interpretation and their accuracy is not guaranteed.

[Folsom Prison Blues](#) lyrics and chords are provided for your personal use, it was written and recorded by Johnny Cash. It's a song that you can easily learn to play and sing, the chords are very simple.

Folsom Prison Blues

written and recorded by Johnny Cash

C
I hear the train a coming it's rolling round the bend
C7
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when
F C
Time stuck at Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on
C
g on down to San Antone

- Select and copy the title, lyrics and chords.

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son
C7
Always be a good boy don't ever play with guns
F C
But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die
G7 C
When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car
C7
They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big cigars
F C
But I know I had it coming I know I can't be free
G7 C
But those people keep a moving and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison if that railroad train was
mine

C7
I bet I'd move on over a little farther down the line

F C
Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to stay

G7 C
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away

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- Open a new blank document in Microsoft Word. On the Page Layout menu, set the margins to narrow, then paste your lyrics into the document.

Folsom Prison Blues

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C
I hear the train a coming it's rolling round the bend
C7
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when
F C
I'm stuck at Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on
G7 C
But that train keeps rolling on down to San Antone

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son
C7
Always be a good boy don't ever play with guns
F C
But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die
G7 C
When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car
C7
They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big cigars
F C
But I know I had it coming I know I can't be free
G7 C
But those people keep a moving and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison if that railroad train was mine
C7
I bet I'd move on over a little farther down the line
F C
Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to stay
G7 C
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away

- Select all, [hold down *Ctrl* and press *A*] and then increase the font size to 14. Anything less is difficult to read when using your music stand. I also change the font to Verdana, but you probably have your own favourite.

Folsom Prison Blues

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- Now is the time to make a decision about what key to set the song in. It's a good idea to listen to the original. Almost everything ever recorded is on YouTube.

C
I hear the train a coming it's rolling round the bend
C7
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when
F C
I'm stuck at Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on
G7 C
But that train keeps rolling on down to San Antone

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son
C7
Always be a good boy don't ever play with guns
F C
But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die
G7
When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head

- Johnny Cash's original studio version is in F#, in later years he changed to F, later still to E.

This version in C is much too low for my voice, so I'm going to transpose it to G.

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car
C7
They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big cigars
F C
But I know I had it coming I know I can't be free
G7 C
But those people keep a moving and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison if that railroad train was mine
C7
I bet I'd move on over a little farther down the line
F C
Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to stay
G7 C
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away

- Now is a good time to check that the chords are in the right places. Changing the font size may have moved them a little, or they may have been placed badly to start with. For example, the first chord of the song was written over the word 'I'; but it should be over 'hear', where the first full bar of the verse begins.

Folsom Prison Blues

written and recorded by Johnny Cash

G

I hear the train a coming it's rolling round the bend

G7

And I ain't seen the sunshine since... I don't know when

C

G

I'm stuck at Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on

D7

G

But that train keeps rolling on down to San An-tone

- I put the chord names in bold text to make them easier to spot.

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son

G7

Always be a good boy don't ever play with guns

C

G

But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die

D7

G

When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car

G7

They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big ci-gars

C

G

But I know I had it coming I know I can't be free

D7

G

But those people keep a moving and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison, if that railroad train was mine

G7

I bet I'd move on over a little farther down the line

C

G

Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to stay

D7

G

And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues a-way

Folsom Prison Blues

written and recorded by Johnny Cash

- Do a final check on lyrics. All the ones I have highlighted differ slightly from the recorded version. Edit as necessary.

G

I hear the train a coming, it's rolling round the bend

G7

And I ain't seen the sunshine since...I don't know when

C

I'm stuck **at** Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on

G

in

D7

G

But that train keeps **rolling** on down to San An-tone

a-rolling

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son

G7

Always be a good boy don't ever play with guns

C

G

But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die

D7

G

When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car

G7

They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big ci-gars

C

G

But I know I had it coming I know I can't be free

Well

D7

G

But those people keep a-moving and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison, if that railroad train was mine

G7

I bet I'd move **on over** a little farther down the line

it on

C

G

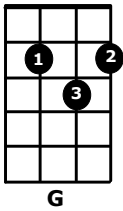
Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to stay

D7

G

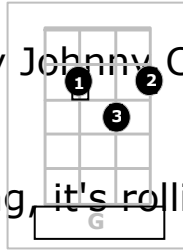
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues a-way


- If the song has just a few easy chords, you may decide not to bother with chord diagrams. If it's more difficult, or is for others to share, you might decide to include them. Open up both chord documents (available for download from Chris' website). Click just outside the chord you require so the frame appears, and copy. [hold down *Ctrl* and press *C*]



Folsom Prison Blues

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- On your chart, move the text down a little to leave space for the chord diagrams. Then paste the chord. [hold down *Ctrl* and press *V*] It will need moving into position. Put your cursor on the frame until the  symbol appears, then drag the diagram to where you want it. Repeat as required.

G

I hear the train a coming, it's rolling round the bend

G7

And I ain't seen the sunshine since....I don't know when

C

G

I'm stuck in Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on

D7

G

But that train keeps a-rolling on down to San An-tone

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son

G7

Always be a good boy, don't ever play with guns

C

G

But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die

D7

G

When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car

G7

They're probably drinking coffee, and smoking big ci-gars

C

G

Well I know I had it coming, I know I can't be free

D7

G

But those people keep a-moving, and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison, if that railroad train was mine

G7

I bet I'd move it on a little farther down the line.

C

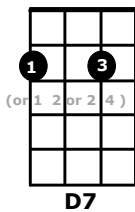
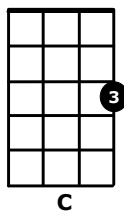
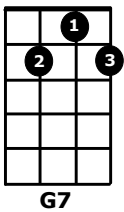
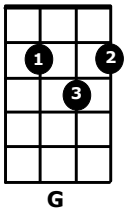
G

Far from Folsom Prison, that's where I want to stay

D7

G

And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues a-way.



• Try out as a final check. Edit if required. Have a nice cup of tea to celebrate.

Folsom Prison Blues

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G

I hear the train a coming, it's rolling round the bend

G7

And I ain't seen the sunshine since....I don't know when

C

G

I'm stuck in Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on

D7

G

But that train keeps a-rolling on down to San An-tone

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son

G7

Always be a good boy, don't ever play with guns

C

G

But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die

D7

G

When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car

G7

They're probably drinking coffee, and smoking big ci-gars

C

G

Well I know I had it coming, I know I can't be free

D7

G

But those people keep a-moving, and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison, if that railroad train was mine

G7

I bet I'd move it on a little farther down the line.

C

G

Far from Folsom Prison, that's where I want to stay

D7

G

And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues a-way.