

Hi Everybody!

Weekly Challenge #9

Here is musical challenge number **nine**.

Log in to [Minute of Listening](#) and find **Bristol Collection 1** and listen to **Minute #29**

Bristol is world famous for its Balloon Fiesta. One thing we've missed seeing this year are the hot air balloons sailing across the Bristol sky. **Minute #29** was recorded at the Cameron Balloons Factory in Bedminster. What can you hear? Can you imagine the size of the sewing machines and workstations needed to sew huge pieces of fabric? Creating an enormous Minion from *Despicable Me*, as Cameron Balloons did in 2013, requires huge spaces to lay out fabric in. Luckily, they have 42,000m²!

This music challenge will focus on **dynamics** and **structure**.

Your challenge is tell the next chapter of the story. Minute #29 helps us to understand how the balloons are made - your task is to use sound to take the balloon into the sky!

Let's think about the ordering of the sounds:

1. Filling the balloon with air (while it is still on the ground)
2. Clambering into the basket
3. Heating the air by firing the burners



1. What would you like to use for inflating the balloon? You could choose to be quite literal and use a fan and blow it at some material.... or you could choose to use instruments – one you're learning, a homemade one (rice on a paper plate?) ... or you might even record yourself running your hand through long grass or a ream of paper and play that sound back... the sky's the limit, right?!



2. For a creaky basket, you may choose to represent this with a creaky chair, or perhaps with sliding barre chords on a guitar or uke. You might trill on a flute or simply use your voice. It really is up to you how you choose to interpret this part of the balloon take-off – there is no wrong answer.

3. Now for heating the air by firing the burners. You could choose grumbly low piano notes or untune your radio... you could choose to show the sudden change in dynamics with a parp on a brass instrument or turn the cold tap on full blast into a jar or vase. Try different ideas and see where you end up.



Finally, decide on the dynamics. Which parts are *piano* (soft/ quiet) and which are *forte* (strong/ loud)? The pilot will fire the burners intermittently to gain altitude. This means that your piece will have moments of a sudden dynamic change from *p* to *f*.

The last part of this challenge is to have a go at scoring it. Write it down. Label each part either *p* for *piano* or *f* for *forte* (and *mf mp* etc). You might use manuscript paper or simply write down how to make each sound and how long each one should last. Add in rests (this can be any symbol you would recognise for a rest or pause). Add any other notation you know - like crescendo marks < and decrescendo marks >

It would be so wonderful to hear some of your hot air balloons taking off. Record them if you can! Let your imagination take flight!!!