The Retirement Blues

Create a humorous, complete blues song about retirement, compare versions, make one improvement, and keep your favorite. **About 30 minutes: six steps of five minutes each.** You'll need your Suno account (free plan is fine), headphones, and your prompt journal.

1 · Choose	2 · Describe	3 · Generate	4 · Listen	5 · Revise	6 · Keep

Step 1: Choose

Subject: A retired man who has all the free time in the world but somehow never gets anything done. **Purpose:** To make the listener laugh. **Audience:** Anyone who is retired, nearly retired, or married to someone who is.

Step 2: Describe

Decide on each building block, then combine your choices and the subject into one or two sentences.

Building block	Our choice	Your notes
Style	Chicago blues	
Tempo and rhythm	Relaxed shuffle	
Vocals	Gravelly male voice	
Instruments	Electric guitar, harmonica	
Mood	Humorous, good-natured	
Arrangement	Catchy chorus, short guitar solo	

PROMPT 4.1 · PROJECT 01 STARTING PROMPT

A humorous Chicago blues shuffle about a retired man with endless free time who never gets anything done. Gravelly male vocals, electric guitar, harmonica, catchy chorus, short guitar solo.

Step 3: Generate

In Suno, click **Create**, choose **Simple** mode, make sure **Instrumental** is off, paste Prompt 4.1, and click **Create**. Suno will create two versions of your song.

Step 4: Listen

Listen to each version all the way through, without skipping ahead. Score each one from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent).

THE SONG SCORECARD	Version A	Version B
Words: Can I understand the lyrics? Are they funny?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Style: Does it sound like the blues I asked for?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Feel: Does it have the right mood and energy?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Shape: Clear beginning, memorable chorus, proper ending?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Smile: Did anything make me smile, or wince?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Total	**___ / 25**	**___ / 25**

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Step 5: Revise

Change one thing at a time. Look at your scorecard, find the weakest area, and pick one revision.

PROMPT 4.2 · REVISION: A DIFFERENT VOICE

A humorous Chicago blues shuffle about a retired man with endless free time who never gets anything done. **Sassy, soulful female vocals**, electric guitar, harmonica, catchy chorus, short guitar solo.

PROMPT 4.3 · REVISION: A SLOWER, LAZIER FEEL

A humorous, **slow and lazy** Chicago blues shuffle about a retired man with endless free time who never gets anything done. Gravelly male vocals, electric guitar, harmonica, catchy chorus, short guitar solo.

PROMPT 4.4 · REVISION: CLEARER WORDS

A humorous Chicago blues shuffle about a retired man with endless free time who never gets anything done. Gravelly male vocals **sung clearly and up front**, electric guitar, harmonica, catchy chorus, short guitar solo.

MY REVISION: 4.2 / 4.3 / 4.4	Version A	Version B
Words: Can I understand the lyrics? Are they funny?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Style: Does it sound like the blues I asked for?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Feel: Does it have the right mood and energy?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Shape: Clear beginning, memorable chorus, proper ending?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Smile: Did anything make me smile, or wince?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Total	**___ / 25**	**___ / 25**

Step 6: Keep

Choose your favorite, give it a better title, mark it as a favorite, and download it if your plan allows.

My new title: _____

Winning prompt: _____

Why I chose it: _____

_____

Finished-Product Checklist

- ☐ I generated at least two versions from the starting prompt.
- ☐ I listened to each version all the way through and scored it.
- ☐ I made one revision, changing only one thing.
- ☐ I chose my favorite version and gave it a title.
- ☐ I marked it as a favorite (and downloaded it, if my plan allows).
- ☐ I recorded the winning prompt and my notes in my prompt journal.

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Try It Yourself: Your Own First Song

Take out the “My First Music Idea” worksheet you completed in Chapter 1 and turn it into a one- or two-sentence description using this pattern. Then repeat the six steps. Allow another thirty minutes.

> **PROMPT 4.5 · YOUR FIRST SONG (FILL IN THE BLANKS)**
>
> A [mood] [style] song about [your subject]. [Type of voice], [two or three instruments], [one detail, such as “a catchy chorus” or “a gentle ending”].

Mood: _____

Style: _____

Subject: _____

Type of voice: _____

Instruments: _____

One detail: _____

My prompt: _____

_____

_____

For example, a reader who chose a birthday song for a grandmother might write:

> **PROMPT 4.6 · EXAMPLE**
>
> A warm, joyful country song about a grandmother named Rose who bakes the best apple pie in Colorado. Friendly female vocals, acoustic guitar, fiddle, a sing-along chorus.

A note on names: Including a real first name, like “Rose,” often helps the AI write personal lyrics, but the AI may not always sing the name clearly or may change it. You’ll learn to control exactly which words are sung in Chapter 6.

MY SONG SCORECARD	Version A	Version B
Words: Can I understand the lyrics? Are they funny?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Style: Does it sound like the blues I asked for?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Feel: Does it have the right mood and energy?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Shape: Clear beginning, memorable chorus, proper ending?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Smile: Did anything make me smile, or wince?	___ / 5	___ / 5
Total	**___ / 25**	**___ / 25**

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