# The Listening and Revision Checklist

*Diagnose before you fix*

Song title: _____ Version: _____ Date: _____

Listen to the whole song with headphones, then work through each question. Note where each problem occurs, such as “verse 2” or “around 2:15.”

| Question | Problem? | Where? |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Words:** Can I understand every line? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **2. Phrasing:** Do the words fit the rhythm naturally, or are they rushed, stretched, or split awkwardly? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **3. Instruments:** Are the instruments the ones I asked for, with nothing unwanted? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **4. Voice:** Is the singer right, and consistent from start to finish? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **5. Transitions:** Does each section flow smoothly into the next? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **6. Ending:** Does the song end deliberately? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **7. Variety:** Does the song develop, or does it repeat itself too much? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |
| **8. Sound quality:** Is the recording clean, without strange noises or distortion? | ☐ Yes ☐ No | |

## The Rescue Ladder

Start at Rung 1 with the simplest repair, and climb only if you need to. Change one thing at a time.

| Rung | Repair | Use it when… |
|---|---|---|
| **6** | **Polish and remaster** | The song is nearly finished. Try Suno’s Remaster, then trim, fade, and adjust volume in an audio editor (Chapter 16). |
| **5** | **Cover in a new style** | The lyrics and melody are right, but the style isn’t. Use Suno’s Cover feature. |
| **4** | **Edit one section** | Most of the song is wonderful. Use the Song Editor: Replace, Edit lyrics, Extend, Crop, or Fade. |
| **3** | **Adjust the lyrics** | Mumbled words, poor phrasing, awkward transitions, or a missing ending. Shorten lines, fix labels, add an outro. |
| **2** | **Adjust the style** | Several versions share the same problem (instruments, voice, mood). Change one thing in the Styles box. |
| **1** | **Generate again** | Before changing anything, generate two or three more versions. |

> **Some editing features may require a paid plan, and each edit uses credits.** On the free plan, Rungs 1 through 3 will solve most problems.

# The Revision Log

*Track every version, one change at a time*

Song title: _____

Record each version, the one thing you changed, what still isn't right, and your Song Scorecard total. You'll see your score climb, and you'll know exactly which change made the biggest difference.

| Version | What I changed (one thing) | Problems remaining | Score / 25 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | *Nothing: original* | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | | | |

## Knowing When to Start Over

Consider starting fresh when:

☐ You've climbed the ladder three or four times and the song isn't improving.
☐ You find yourself fixing a new problem every time you fix an old one.
☐ You realize you no longer like the basic idea.

> Starting over isn't failure. Your revision notes, prompts, and lyrics carry everything you've learned into the next attempt. And "good enough to make someone smile" is a perfectly worthy goal.