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The Country Songwriting Guide for 2026

A country song tells one true story in about three minutes: a place, a person and a feeling, sung in plain words. This guide covers how a country song is built, the five country styles and six moods, how to tell a story in three verses, natural rhymes and a singable chorus, and a page to plan your own song.

How a country song is built

1. **Verse 1 (6 to 8 lines).** Set the scene: who, where and what happened. Use real things you can see, like a porch light or a dusty truck.
2. **The chorus (4 to 6 lines).** The main idea in a few words people can sing back. The song's title usually lives here.
3. **Verse 2 (6 to 8 lines).** Move the story on: time passes, something changes, the feeling grows.
4. **The bridge (2 to 4 lines).** A turn: a memory, a lesson or a promise, before the last chorus.

Five styles and six moods

Style	What it sounds like	Use it for
Classic Country	Plain-spoken, timeless storytelling	Family, hard work, home
Modern Country	Rock edges and a big chorus	Modern life, road trips, nights out
Country Pop	Catchy, radio-friendly hooks	Love songs and sing-alongs
Bluegrass	Acoustic, front-porch storytelling	Mountain life and family heritage
Outlaw Country	Raw and rebellious	Freedom and living on your own terms

Moods: sad for heartbreak, romantic for love songs, upbeat for Friday nights, reflective for looking back, heartfelt for family and home, and funny for a story with a smile.

Stories, rhymes and a chorus that sticks

- **Show, don't tell:** "Your coffee cup still sits beside the sink" says more than "I miss you".
- **Natural rhymes:** if a rhyme sounds forced, change the line, not the meaning. Near rhymes like "home" and "alone" are fine.
- **Sing it out loud:** a line that is hard to sing is too long. Cut words until it flows.
- **One idea in the chorus:** repeat the title line so people remember it after one listen.
- **Make it yours:** swap in a real road, a real name or a small detail from your own life.

Plan your country song

Fill this in, then write your song on the AI Country Song Generator.

The story in one sentence (who, where, what happened)

Your style and your mood

A line you must include, and your chorus idea

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