The fastest way to measure a song's tempo is tap tempo. You tap along with the beat and software calculates the BPM.

The maths behind it

Every tap is timestamped, the gaps are averaged, and the result is converted with a simple formula BPM = 60,000 ÷ average milliseconds. Taps 500 ms apart give 120 BPM.

Getting an accurate reading

Follow the drums rather than the vocals. Tap for at least eight beats for a stable number. Skip metronome free intros.

Half-time and double-time

If the number looks half or double what you expect, you may be tapping a different note **online metronome** value. Check typical genre tempos and choose the conventional one.

With the tempo in hand, open it in a metronome and practise along, or slow it down while you learn.