Lesson 25
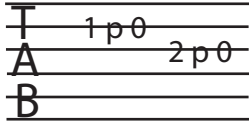
Guitar Techniques

To slur downward, pull the string to the side a little with the left hand finger as it lifts off.

In tablature, a downward slur is called a pull-off. and is notated "p".

Music Theory for Guitar

Many guitarists often find themselves wanting to change the key of a piece of music, usually in order to make it easier to sing or play.
Changing the key is called transposition*.
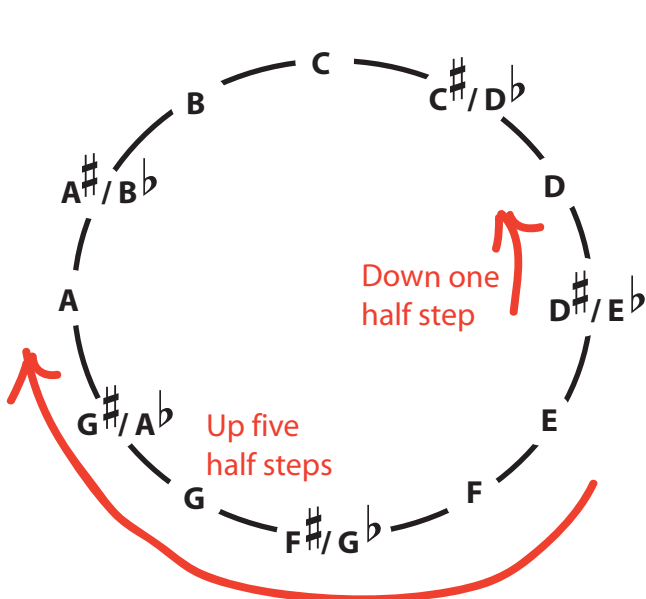If you like playing in the written key, you can transpose using a capo.
For example, putting a capo at the third fret will raise the sound by three half-steps
You can also change keys easily if you are playing no-open-strings chords and melodies.
Writing out the melody in a new key is a difficult task for beginning guitarists,
but changing the chord progression to a new key is usually pretty easy:

1. Decide on the new, more singable or playable key.
2. Figure out how many half-steps up or down the new key is from the old one.
3. Change all the note-information in the chord names by that amount.
4. All other information, such as "minor" or "seventh", stays the same.
5. If moving to a playable key makes singing difficult, transpose chords down and use a capo to raise the music back to the original key.

Example 1: Don't want to play in E♭ major.
Move everything down one half-step to D major:

Start with:	E♭	A♭ / D♭	Cm	B♭7	E♭
Change to:	D	G / C	Bm	A7	D

Example 2: Key of E minor is far too low for voice.
Move everything up five half-steps to A minor:

Start with:	Em	Am7	G / B	B7	Em
Change to:	Am	Dm7	C / E	E7	Am

*learn more about transposition: http://cnx.org/content/m10668/latest/