Notation and Tablature Explained

Open C chord

Scale of E major

Bent Notes:
The note fretted is always shown first. Variations in pitch achieved by string bending are enclosed within this symbol \[ \text{\textsmaller{\textbullet}} \]. If you aren’t sure how far to bend the string, playing the notes indicated without bending gives a guide to the pitches to aim for. The following examples cover the most common string bending techniques:

Example 1:
Play the D, bend up one tone (two half-steps) to E.

Example 2:
Play the D, bend up one tone to E then release bend to sound D. Only the first note is picked.

Example 3:
Fast bend: Play the D, then bend up one tone to E as quickly as possible.

Example 4:
Pre-bend: fret the D, bend up one tone to E, then pick.

Example 5:
Play the A and D together, then bend the B-string up one tone to sound B.

Example 6:
Play the D and F\# together, then bend the G-string up one tone to E, and the B-string up ½ tone to G.

Additional guitaristic techniques have been notated as follows:

Tremolo Bar:
Alter pitch using tremolo bar. Where possible, the pitch to aim for is shown.
a) Play the G, use the bar to drop the pitch to E.
b) Play the open G, use the bar to ‘divebomb’, i.e. drop the pitch as far as possible.

Hammer on and Pull off:
Play first note, sound next note by ‘hammering on’, the next by ‘pulling off’. Only the first note is picked.

Mutes:
a) Right hand mute:
Mute strings by resting the right hand on the strings just above the bridge.
b) Left hand mute:
Damp the strings by releasing left hand pressure just after the notes sound.
c) Unpitched mute:
Damp the strings with the left hand to produce a percussive sound.

Glissando:
a) Play first note, sound next note by sliding up string. Only the first note is picked.
b) As above, but pick second note.