Garageband is a Mac-exclusive DAW (Digital Audio Workstation). The opening screen for Garageband contains several options for creating projects. You can select an empty Project, an existing project or as the screen capture depicts below, create a project from the Keyboard Collection. You also have the option of clicking on tutorials from the Learn to Play or the Lesson Store.
Main Toolbar

Here you will find the Main Toolbar. This displays the most pertinent information about the track and recording.

Display Mode. Changes the display of the Main Toolbar from Beats to Time or vice versa.

Bar/Beats. A measurement of how “long” the song is. Can be changed to display the actual time with Display Mode.

BPM or Beats Per Minute. Denotes the “speed” of the track. 120 is standard.

Key. Also known as Pitch. Affects the entire “sound” of the song.

Signature. Basically the “structure” of the song. 4/4 is standard.
Other Tools

Playback Toolbar. Used to start a recording, playing a track, rewinding, etc.

Metronome Controls
Sample - Loops part of a track
Tuner - Tunes instruments connected to GarageBand
Count In - Plays a measure to help you get the time right.
Click - Turns the “click” of the metronome on or off.

Media Controls
Notepad - Write Notes while working on projects.
Apple Loops - Pre-recorded loops to work with.
Media - Import audio, pictures or movies.

Master Volume. Controls the volume for the entire track.
Media Toolbar

**Library** - Find samples of instruments to use in your tracks.

**Smart Controls** - Manipulate audio with EQ and more.
Editing Tools - Slice up recorded samples and edit them.

Piano Roll

Use Piano Roll to edit individual notes you have played on your Keyboard or MIDI instrument. Time Quantize will help keep notes in line with the selected Signature. Velocity is how “hard” each note is played. Lower velocity means the notes will be softer. Each green bar is its own note. You can drag the notes up and down to change the pitch. You can grab the ends of each bar to shorten/lengthen the note.
General Tips

Count-in and Click are very useful for keeping your playing on Tempo.

Proud of your track? GarageBand has a built-in share function so you can put your song on iTunes or Soundcloud.

Notepad can be very useful for writing down ideas or things you need to change.

The instrument loops that come with GarageBand are great for brainstorming ideas or for using in the final song.

Enjoy GarageBand!