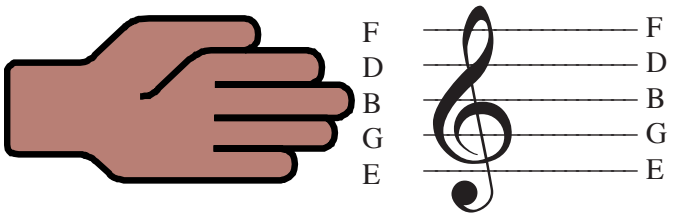
THEORY

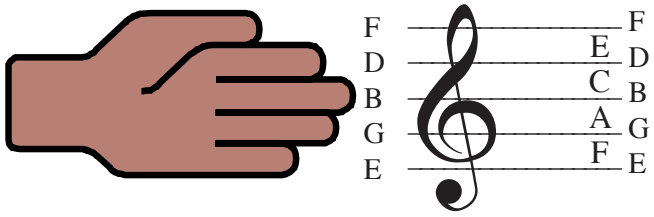
THEORY - NAMES OF NOTES ON LINES

Use fingers of your hand, with the thumb at the top to remember the lines on the treble staff. Memorise the first letter of each word in this phrase: **E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**eserves **F**ootball; (E is the pinkie and F is the thumb).



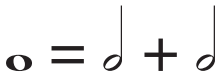
THEORY - NAMES OF NOTES IN SPACES

In the treble staff, the spaces spell **F–A–C–E** (reading up!). FACE rhymes with SPACE



THEORY - NOTE VALUES

If you have a whole pie and cut it in half, you get two half-pies. If you have a "whole-note", a semibreve, and cut it in half, you get two "half-notes", minims

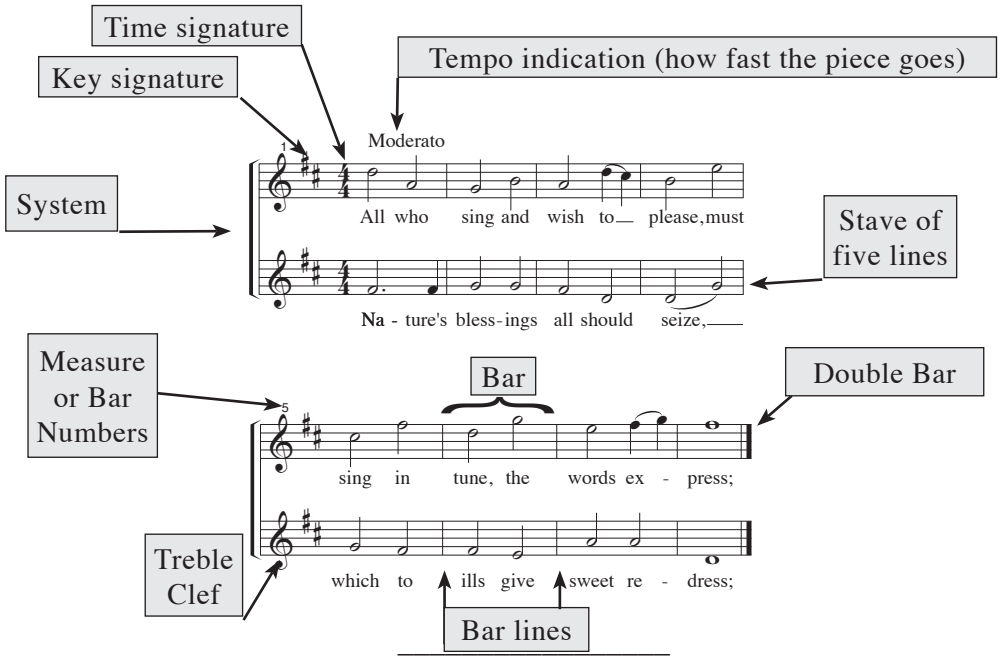


If you have a whole pie and cut it in four, you get four quarter-pies. If you have a "whole-note" and cut it in four, you get four "quarter-notes", crotchets.

[Only the English and French have their own names for note values - the rest of the world calls the semibreve a whole-note, so the concept of dividing notes in two to get half-notes and quarter notes is easier.]

THEORY - KNOWING THE NAMES OF THINGS

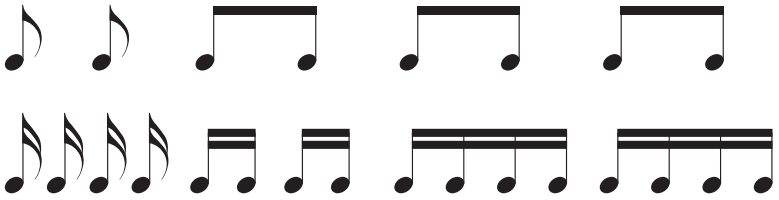
Identify those elements of music notation marked in this example in any piece of music.



THEORY - NOTE VALUES

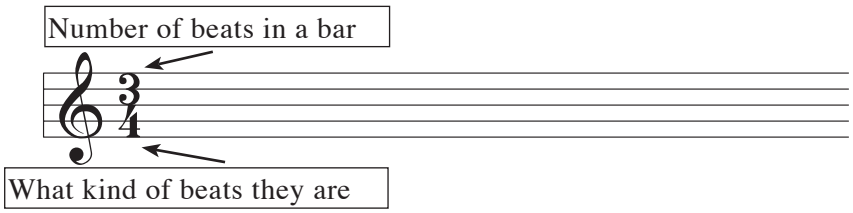
Whole note		Semibreve
Half notes		Minim
Quarter notes		Crotchet
Eighth notes		Quaver
Sixteenth notes		Semiquaver

Eighth and sixteenth notes are sometimes beamed together:



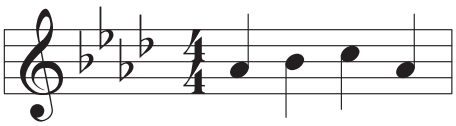
THEORY - TIME SIGNATURES

You should know what the top number and bottom number in time signatures mean.



THEORY - FINDING DOH

Doh is the key note – that's what Doh means! To find doh, look at the Key Signature, which you'll find at the start of the piece, immediately after the Treble Clef.



You'll need to learn this rhyme:

The note above the last sharp is the key note,
The second last flat is the key note;
C major has no sharps nor flats,
F major has one flat.

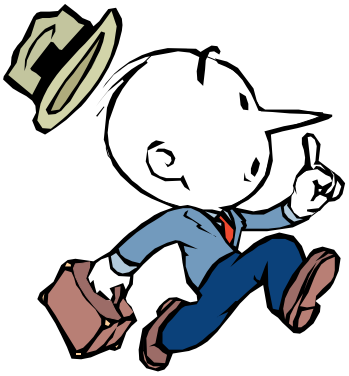
Any note can be doh, but only A♭ can be A♭.

THEORY - HOW FAST IS IT?

Be able to pronounce and know the meaning of words about *speed*:

presto	very fast
allegro	fast
andante	walking speed
moderato	at a moderate speed
lento or **largo**	slow
adagio	very slow

THEORY - IS IT GETTING FASTER OR SLOWER?



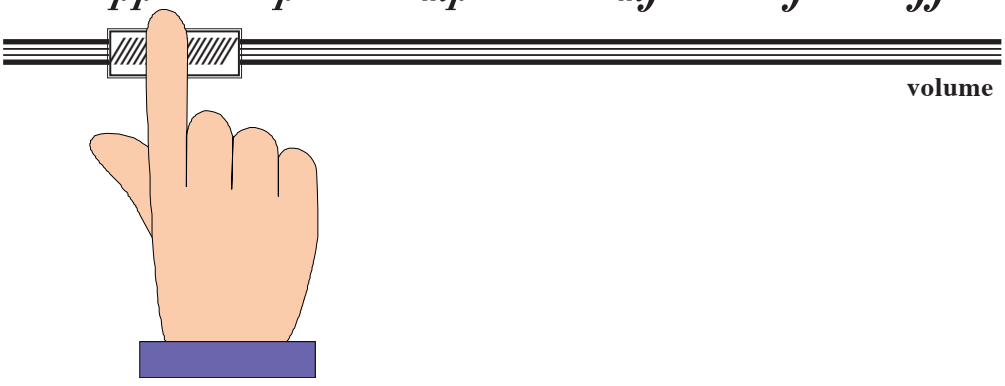
accelerando (accel) means **getting faster** →

ritardando (rit.) means **getting slower**
rallentando (rall.) means **getting slower**
←

THEORY - IS IT SOFT OR LOUD

Do you know all these terms for how loud and soft music is?

very soft	soft	half–soft	half–loud	loud	very loud
pianissimo	piano	mezzopiano	mezzoforte	forte	fortissimo
pp	*p*	*mp*	*mf*	*f*	*ff*



DOTS AFTER NOTES

Dots after notes lengthen them by half their original length, but you need to imagine them all differently!
In $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{4}{4}$:–

a two beat note with a dot becomes three beats $\frac{3}{4}$ 𝅗𝅥. = 𝅗𝅥 𝅘𝅥 (simply count 1 2 3)

a one-beat note with a dot becomes one-and-a-half beats:–

(clap this rhythm: $\frac{3}{4}$ ♩ ♫ ♩ | ♩ Now clap: $\frac{3}{4}$ ♩ ♫ ♩ | ♩)

This is the same as: $\frac{3}{4}$ ♩. 𝅘𝅥𝅯 ♩ | ♩)

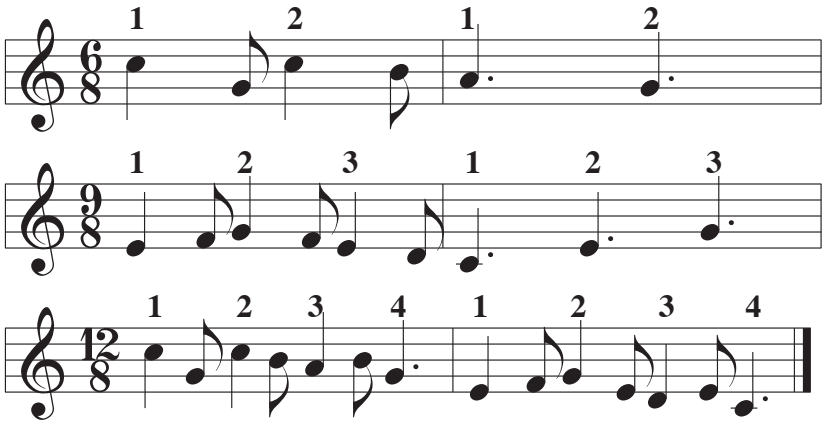
How long is a quaver (half-a-beat) with a dot?

Think about dotted quavers (♩. 𝅘𝅥𝅯) as uneven quavers (♫).

THEORY - COMPOUND TIME

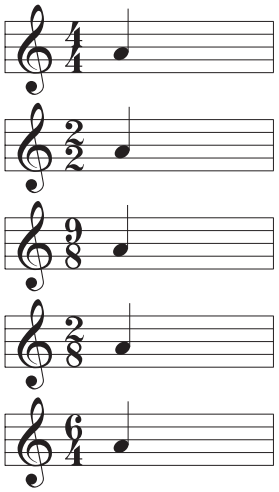
You already know that in most time signuatures, the top number tells you how many beats there are in the bar and the bottom number tells you what kind of beats they are. However, the so-called "compound time signatures" don't obey this rule - you have to divide the top number by 3 to get the number of beats in the bar, and the bottom number has to be grouped in three to tell you what kind of beats they are.

For example, in $\frac{6}{8}$ there are indeed six eighth notes in each bar, but they are grouped into 2 beats (2 = **6**÷3), each of which is a dotted quarter (a dotted quarter = three eighths)



THEORY - SUMS

A quarter note isn't always one beat long – it depends on the time signature. Can you find out how many beats the quarter note has in each line of music here and add them up?



NO. OF BEATS

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

TOTAL _____