

Level 2 Contents

About Lesson 2	1
The Staff and the Clef	2
The Note	3
Notes on the Staff	4
Middle C as a note	5
My First Song	6
Notes and Rhythm	7
The Tick Tock Song	8
Tick Tock Again	9
Readiness Test	10
Quarter Notes and Half Notes	11
Counting Quarter Notes	12
Counting Practice	13
I Promise	14
Happy Half Notes	15
Hold Your Half Notes	16
Piano Key Names	17
Golly Gee	18
Quarter Rests	19
Time to Rest	20
3 for E	21
Measures	22
2 with D	23
Mary Had a Little Lamb	24
4 with F	25
Ode to Joy	26

About Level Two

Your chances of success are very high if you take your time and move to the next level only when you are very comfortable with what you have learned so far.

The goal in Level Two is to learn basic note reading skills by playing several short songs with easy to read notes.

Keep in mind that if you are teaching yourself and you do not have a teacher to watch you, you need to be extra careful and do exactly what I recommend that you do.

Have fun!

The Staff and The Clef

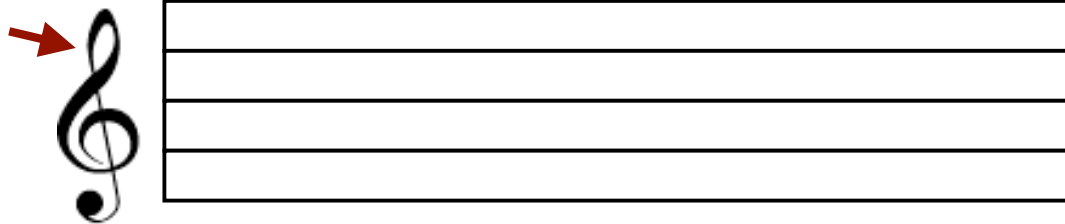
Notes are written on a **STAFF**.

The staff has 5 lines and 4 spaces:



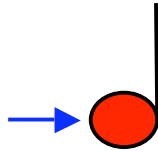
The symbol you see in front of the staff below is called the **Treble Clef**, or sometimes it's called the **G Clef**.

The Treble Clef tells you to play with your right hand.

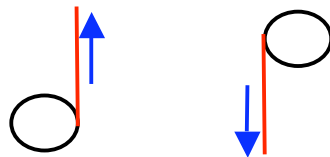


The Note

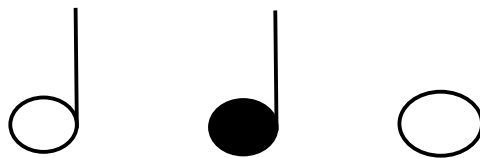
The round part of the note is called the **notehead**.



The line that is attached to a note is called the **stem**.
The stem can point up or down.

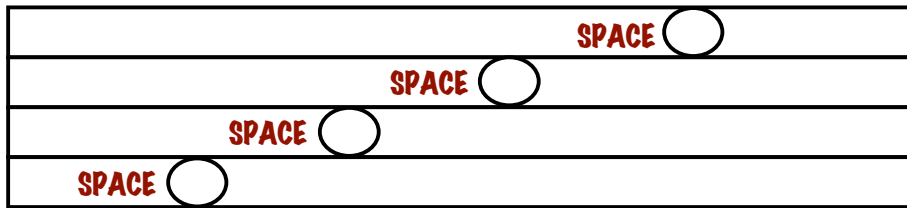


Some notes are black, some notes are white and sometimes they do not have a stem. You will learn the difference between the different types of notes.

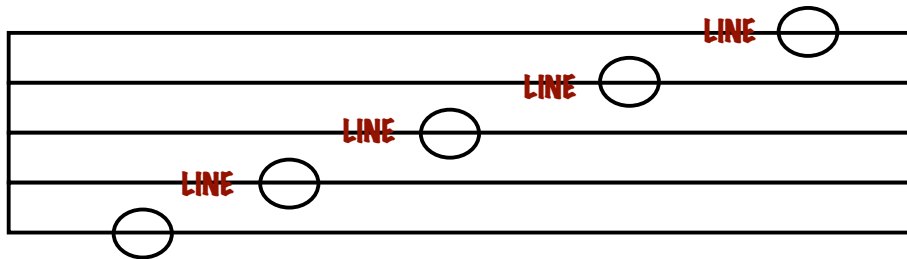


Notes on the Staff

Notes can be written inside the spaces of the staff:



Notes can also be written on the lines of the staff:



When a note is written on the staff line, the line goes right through the middle of the notehead.

Middle C as a Note

You will learn the names of each note, one at a time.
The first note you will learn is Middle C.

Look at Middle C as a note:



Middle C is **not** in a space or on a line of the staff.
Middle C is hanging **below** the staff with its own little line through its notehead.

Are you ready to play your first song?


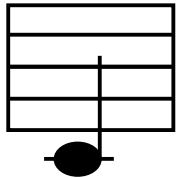
On the next page, try to identify all the different parts of music that we just talked about.

You should be able to identify the staff, the treble clef, and Middle C as a note.

My First Song

Place your right hand in Middle C position.
Play the correct fingers when you see the numbers.

When you see:  play Middle C.

  2 3 2

  2 3 2

  2 3 4

 5 5  

Notes and Rhythm

Rhythm is what makes each song different from each other. There would not be music without rhythm. Rhythm is created when you play some notes long and some notes short.

To learn good rhythm, you need to know how long to hold a note down before you let it go.

When you play the next song, you will hold each note down long enough for you to say "tick-tock". When you say "tick-tock" you are giving each note one beat.

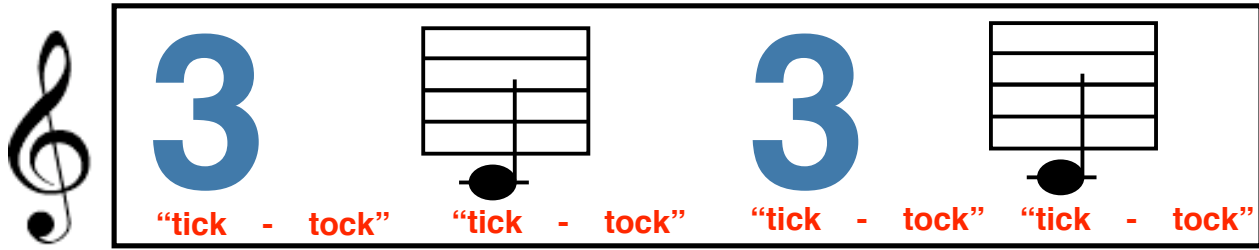
Make your voice sound like the rhythm of a clock. Slow and steady, never speed up, never slow down, never stop, and never pause.

Make sure your finger plays the note at the same time that you say "tick" and don't let go until you are finished saying "tock".



The Tick Tock Song

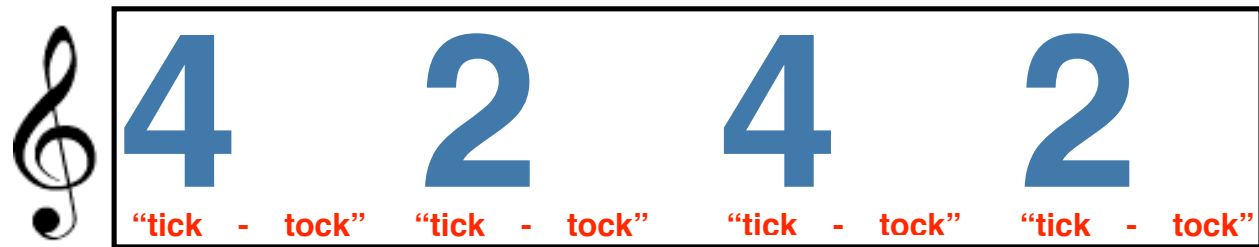
Count each beat by saying "tick-tock" every time you play a note. Do not count in your head. **Count out loud.** Play it several times until the rhythm sounds like a clock.



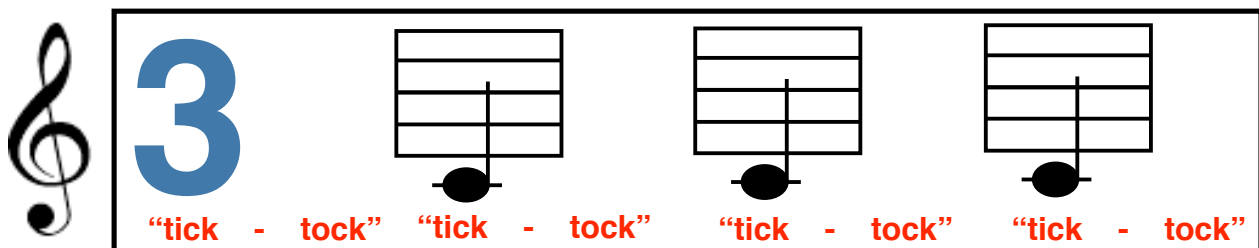
3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock"



3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock" 5 "tick - tock" 5 "tick - tock"



4 "tick - tock" 2 "tick - tock" 4 "tick - tock" 2 "tick - tock"



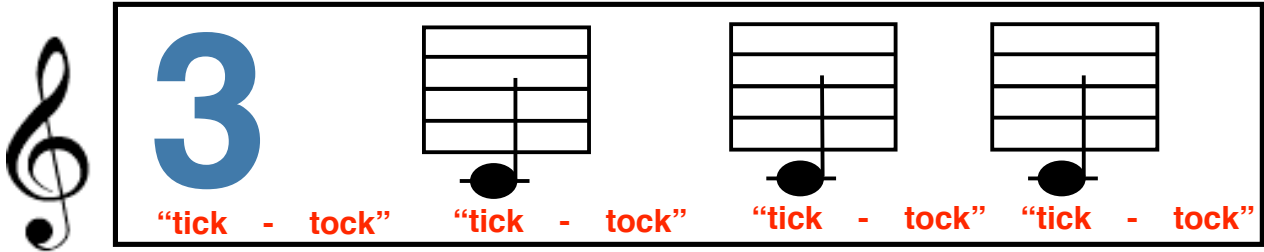
3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock"

Tick Tock Again

How did you do with the tick tock song?

Did you remember to keep your eyes on the music?

Play this song very carefully, counting out loud and keeping your eyes on the music.



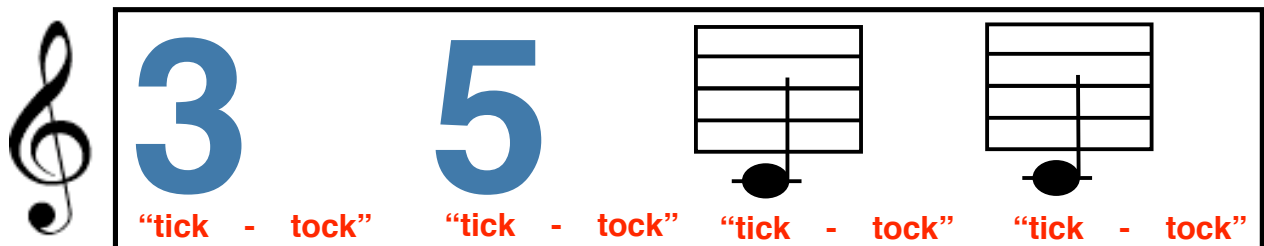
3 "tick - tock" "tick - tock" "tick - tock" "tick - tock"



3 "tick - tock" 3 "tick - tock" 5 "tick - tock" 5 "tick - tock"



4 "tick - tock" 2 "tick - tock" 2 "tick - tock" 2 "tick - tock"



3 "tick - tock" 5 "tick - tock" "tick - tock" "tick - tock"

Readiness Test

It's time to take a minute or two and review what you have learned so far. It's important that you do not rush through the lessons.

Answer the following questions. You do not need to write down the answers, just answer them to yourself.

If you don't know the answer, make sure you look through the lesson pages and find the answer.

1. What does it mean to "keep your eyes on the music?"
2. Do I count the beats in my head or out loud?
3. True or False: Flowers and notes have stems.
4. Which hand do I use when I see the treble clef?

Quarter Notes and Half Notes

There are many different types of notes.
Today you will learn about two different types.

A black note with a stem is called a **QUARTER NOTE:**



A white note with a stem is called **HALF NOTE:**



The difference between a quarter note and a half note is in how you count them.

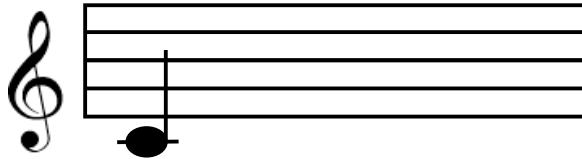
Counting Quarter Notes and Half Notes

You have seen Middle C as a quarter note in the last song you played.

It is black with a stem.

You gave each Middle C one beat by saying “tick-tock” when you played it.

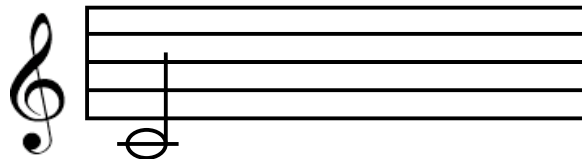
That’s right! **A quarter note receives one beat:**



“tick - tock”

Let’s take a look at Middle C as a **half note.**

It is white with a stem:



“tick - tock - tick - tock”

Can you guess how many beats it receives?

Counting Practice

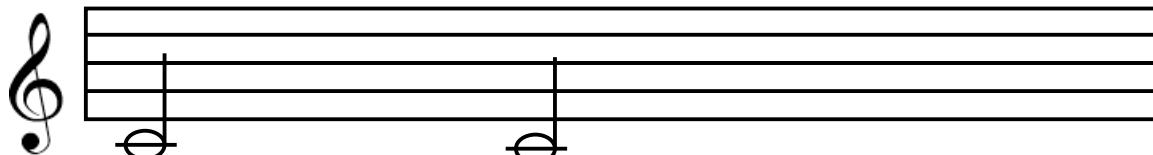
You are right! A half note receives two beats.

You will count a half note by saying:
"tick-tock tick-tock".

Play the Middle C's below.

Do not let go of the half note until you are finished saying
"tick-tock-tick-tock".

It will seem like you are holding it down for a long time, but that is good because that is what you are supposed to do.



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef on the left. Two half notes are written on the staff, both positioned on the middle line (C4). The first half note is on the left, and the second half note is on the right. Below the staff, the counting pattern "tick - tock - tick - tock" is written in red text, with a space between the two phrases.

"tick - tock - tick - tock" "tick - tock - tick - tock"

I Promise to Count the Beats

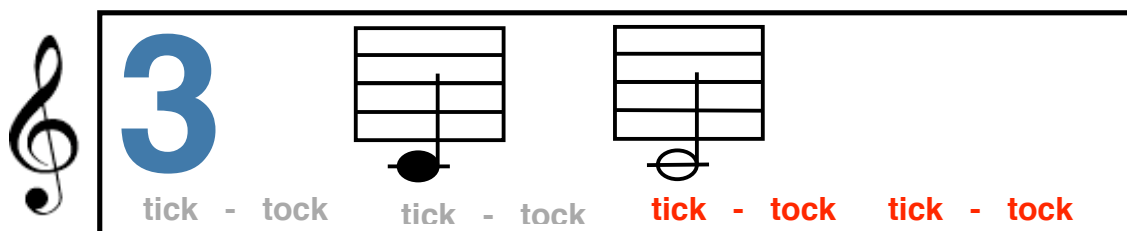
Counting the beats of a song is the most important lesson you will ever learn in piano lessons. No matter what instrument you choose to learn to play, you will have to learn to count the beats correctly, and OUT LOUD,

Promise yourself that no matter how silly you might feel or sound, you will always count the beats OUT LOUD whenever you learn a new song.

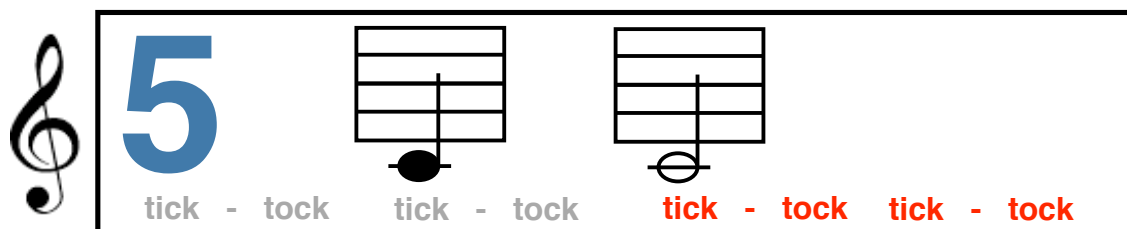
Even after years of playing the piano, you still have to count the beats OUT LOUD when you first learn a song.

Raise your right hand and say:
"I promise I will always count the
beats of a song OUT LOUD".

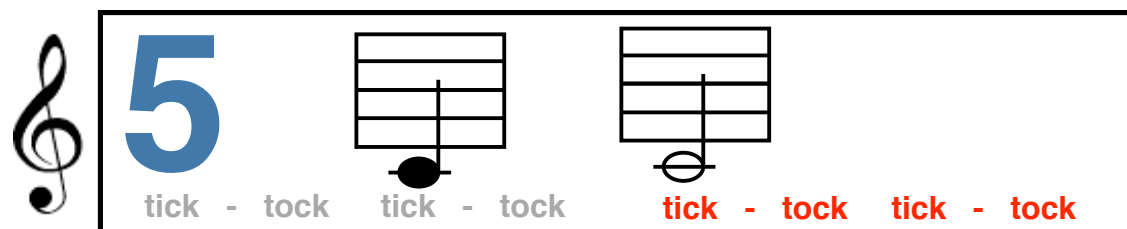
The Happy Half Note Song



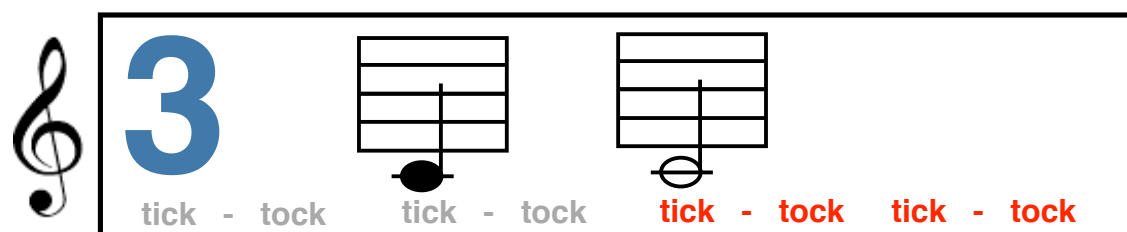
3
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock



5
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock



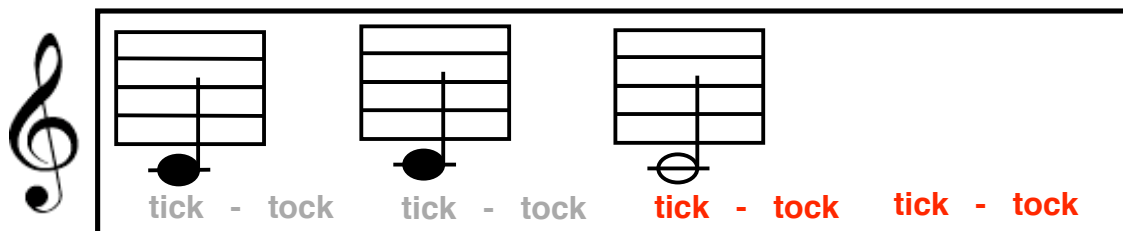
5
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock



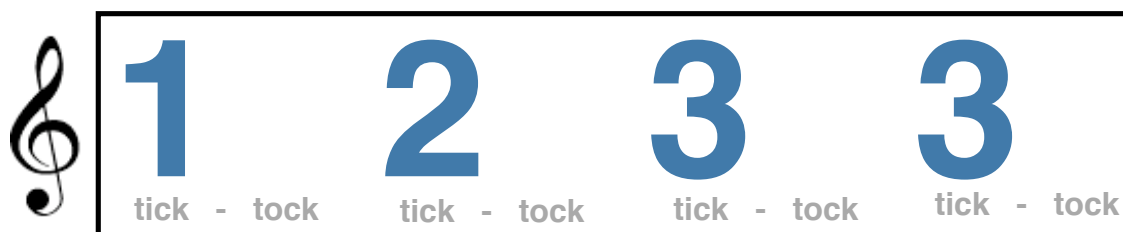
3
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

Did you count the beats out loud?
Did you hold your half notes?
Did you keep your eyes on the music?

Hold Your Half Notes!



tick - tock tick - tock **tick - tock** **tick - tock**



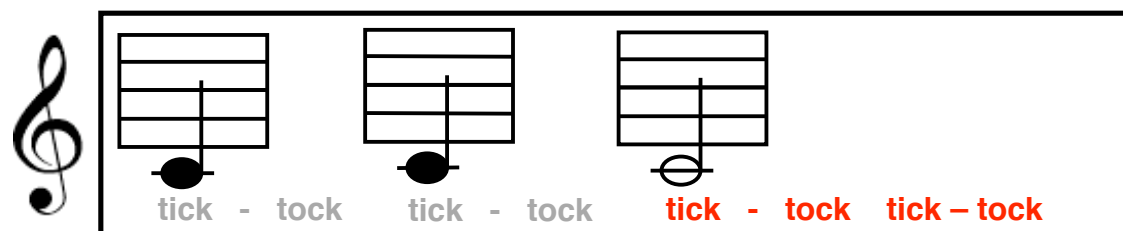
1 2 3 3

tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock



3 2 tick - tock tick - tock

tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock



tick - tock tick - tock **tick - tock** **tick - tock**

Did you count the beats out loud?
Did you hold your half notes?
Did you keep your eyes on the music?

Piano Key Names

Now that you are comfortable with reading a little music, it is time to learn the real names of the piano keys.

The numbers are the numbers of your fingers.

The numbers are NOT the names of the piano keys.

For example: When your #1 finger plays Middle C, Middle C is the name of the piano key and #1 is the name of the finger.

Starting now we will gradually replace one number at a time, with the real name of the piano key.

Let's start by replacing the 5.

You will see G on the music from now on instead of 5.

Use #5 finger when you play the G.

Golly Gee!

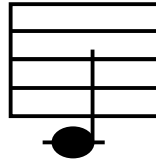


G

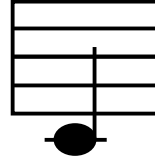
tick - tock

G

tick - tock



tick - tock



tick - tock

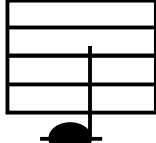


G

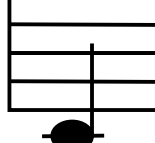
tick - tock

G

tick - tock



tick - tock



tick - tock



G

tick - tock

4

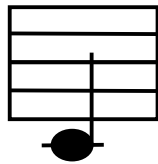
tick - tock

3

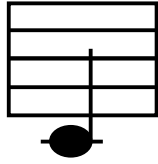
tick - tock

2

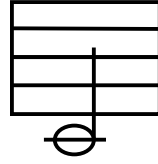
tick - tock



tick - tock



tick - tock



tick - tock

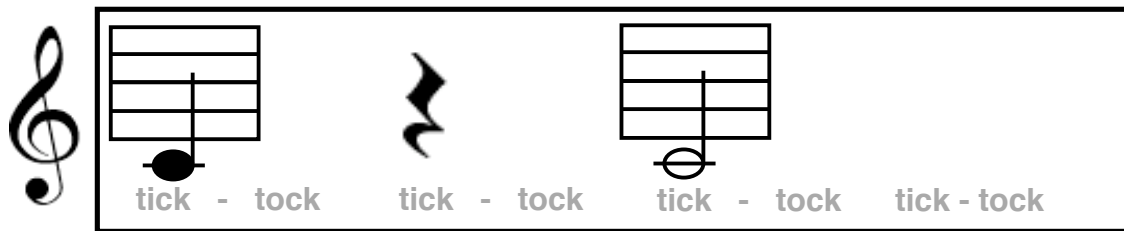
tick - tock

Quarter Rests

The following symbol is called a **QUARTER REST**:

When you see a quarter rest in a song you will not play anything at all but you will still give it one beat by counting "tick-tock".

Play and count the example below.


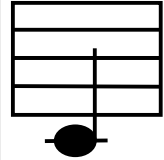

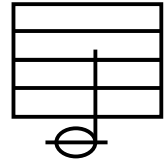



Double check what you played:


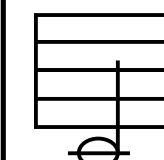

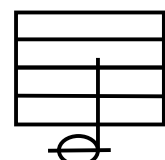

1. Play the Middle C as a quarter note, count "tick-tock", then let go.
2. Count "tick-tock" for the quarter rest, do not play anything.
3. Play the Middle C as a half note, count "tick-tock-tick-tock", do not let go until you finish counting.

Time to Rest

 **G**  **3** 
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

    
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

 **4**  **2** 
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock


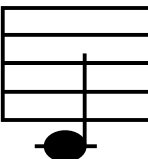
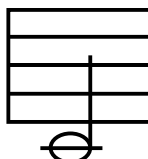
    
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

Replacing 3 for E

 **G** **E** **E** **2**
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

 **E** **G** **G** 
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

 **4** **2** **2** **4**
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

 **E**  
tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

Measures

Music is organized in boxes. The music you have been playing has been organized in boxes. Those boxes are called:

MEASURES

There are four measures in this song. I shaded the first measure and the last measure.

You don't need to do anything different when you play this song. Don't forget to count out loud! 😊

First two measures of music notation. The first measure is shaded green and contains notes E (red), G (blue), and two empty staves with a tick-tock rhythm. The second measure contains notes G (blue), E (red), and two empty staves with a tick-tock rhythm.

Last two measures of music notation. The first measure contains an empty staff with a tick-tock rhythm, followed by notes E (red), G (blue), and G (blue) with a tick-tock rhythm. The second measure is shaded green and contains notes G (blue), E (red), and two empty staves with a tick-tock rhythm.

Replacing 2 with D

Time to take away another number.

Say goodbye to number 2 and say hello to D!

Play all the D's with your number 2 finger.

tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock tick - tock

Mini Quiz:


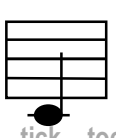
1. Are your eyes where they are supposed to be?
2. Are you counting every beat out loud?
3. Are you using the correct fingers?
4. How many measures are in this song?
5. How do you know which hand you are supposed to play this song with?


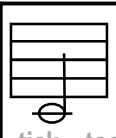



Mary Had a Little Lamb

You will have fun playing this favorite children's song.
Play D with your #2 finger.

	E tick - tock	D tick - tock	 tick - tock	D tick - tock	E tick - tock	E tick - tock	E tick - tock	 tick - tock
---	-------------------------	-------------------------	--	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	--

	D tick - tock	D tick - tock	D tick - tock	 tick - tock	E tick - tock	G tick - tock	G tick - tock	 tick - tock
---	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	--	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	--

	E tick - tock	D tick - tock	 tick - tock	D tick - tock	E tick - tock	E tick - tock	E tick - tock	E tick - tock
--	-------------------------	-------------------------	---	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

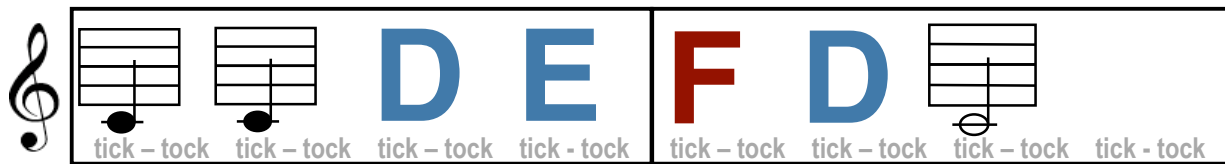
	D tick - tock	D tick - tock	E tick - tock	D tick - tock	 tick - tock	 tick - tock	 tick - tock	 tick - tock
---	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	--	--	--	--

Replacing 4 with F

Every time you see F, play it with your #4 finger.



The first row of exercises is contained within a rectangular box. On the left is a treble clef. The box is divided into two sections by a vertical line. The first section contains four letters: E, E, F, F. The first two E's are blue, and the two F's are red. Below each letter is the text "tick - tock". The second section contains four letters: G, F, E, D. The G and E are blue, and the F and D are red. Below each letter is the text "tick - tock".



The second row of exercises is contained within a rectangular box. On the left is a treble clef. The box is divided into two sections by a vertical line. The first section contains two musical staves, each with a single quarter note on the first line (E). Below each staff is the text "tick - tock". The second section contains four letters: D, E, F, D. The D and E are blue, and the F and D are red. Below each letter is the text "tick - tock". To the right of the letters is another musical staff with a single quarter note on the first line (E), with the text "tick - tock" below it.

Reminder:

D is #2 finger

E is #3 finger

F is #4 finger

G is #5 finger

Beethoven's Ode to Joy

I bet you didn't know that you are ready to play your first famous song! This is a song written by Beethoven.



A musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are represented by large letters: E, E, F, G, G, F, E, D. The letters E and G are blue, while F is red. Below each letter is the text "tick - tock".



A musical staff with a treble clef. It starts with two empty staves, each with a quarter note on the first line. This is followed by the letters D, E, E, D, D, and a fermata symbol. Below each letter or symbol is the text "tick - tock".



A musical staff with a treble clef. The notes are represented by large letters: E, E, F, G, G, F, E, D. The letters E and G are blue, while F is red. Below each letter is the text "tick - tock".



A musical staff with a treble clef. It starts with two empty staves, each with a quarter note on the first line. This is followed by the letters D, E, D, and two empty staves, each with a quarter note on the first line. Below each letter or symbol is the text "tick - tock".

Play this song smoothly without any mistakes and counting out loud before going to the next lessons. 😊

The Foundation to Reading Music

As you have already noticed, you are being introduced to reading real music, one small step at a time.

The steps you are taking right now, are preparing you to make an easy transition from reading letters, to reading notes.

Enjoy each step, even though it seems like little baby steps.

Without little baby steps, it would be extremely difficult to take the big steps.

In lesson 3 you will continue to learn how to read real music.

You will be introduced to playing chords with the left hand.

You will also be introduced to playing both hands at the same time. Lesson 3 is exciting...so don't wait, get started right away!

As always, remember to keep smiling and give yourself a special treat every day by enjoying playing the piano for at least 10 minutes. 😊