

How to Read Music

When we speak, we use words. Words can be written down so that we can read them.
It's similar with music, except that we use notes instead of words.

The notes are written on a staff. Some are on the lines and some are in the spaces between the lines.
The higher they are on the staff, the higher they sound.

We use the first 7 letters of the alphabet to name the notes.

There are more than 7 different notes in music, so when we get to G we start again at A. CONFUSING!

The diagram shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a guitar tab below it. The staff contains notes for D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The guitar tab shows fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. Labels include 'treble clef', 'notes', 'fret numbers', and 'string numbers'.

String	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
T											
A	0	2	3	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	3
B											

The tab shows you how to find the notes on the guitar fretboard

Easy Tunes

music is divided into 'bars' by these barlines

Three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled '1st string tune', the second '2nd string tune', and the third '3rd string tune'. Labels include 'time signature', 'crotchet or quarter note (1 beat)', 'minim or half note (2 beats)', and 'semibreve or whole note (4 beats)'.

4 quarter notes to a bar



Dancing Tadpoles



repeat sign

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff has four quarter notes per bar. The second staff has a mix of note values. A repeat sign is at the end of the second staff.