

# Reading Sheet Music (Notation)

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Beats: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4

Treble Clef

Whole Note = 4 beats    Quarter Note = 1 beat    Half Note = 2 beats    Eighth Note = 1/2 beat

Notes: E                    F   G   A   B                    C                    D                    E F D C B A G F E

Line Note                    Space Note

Notation is read left to right. The music is split up into boxes called '**measures**' or '**bars**.'

Each measure in this example contains 4 **beats**. Beats are what we count to keep our place in the music.

The **line** or **space** the note head is on tells us which **note** to play.

The note value (i.e. half note, quarter note, eighth note, etc.) tells us how long to play the note.

The first five measures of music in this example have the beats labeled for you, this is what you count to keep track of how long you sustain the notes you're playing. The next five measures of music show the same music but with the note names written in. Try finding these notes on your instrument and sustaining them for the right number of beats.

The first measure shows an 'E' note that you sustain for 4 beats. In the second measure, the notes are changing every beat (every number you count). In the third measure, the notes are both 2 beats long. In the fourth measure, each note is only 1/2 a beat long. When counting, say 'and' when you see a '+' sign.

Check out the notation reference for your instrument to learn more!