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Explanation of Rhythm

Rhythm is created by variations in the length of sound. You can hear this yourself by simply repeating the same pattern of length of sound variations vocally.

For example: dot dot dash dash dot dot dash dash dot dot dash dash

Note: The words "dot dot dash dash" are good for illustrating short and long sound variations. As you can see from the above example, the length of sound variations is "short, short, long, long," repeated three times.

In written music the duration of sound is determined by the use of notes or signs. Each note represents a particular sound's *time length value*. For every note there is a related rest or pause sign, which represents a period of silence for the same time length value.

Notes and Their Related Rest Signs

The following is a list of all the notes and their related rest signs. Your first step is to simply look at them for what they are—notes, related rest signs and the names they are called.

| Whole Note | O | 1/1 | Whole Note Rest | _ |
|--------------------|---|------|-------------------------|----|
| Half Note | ٦ | 1/2 | Half Note Rest | _ |
| Quarter Note | ا | 1/4 | Quarter Note Rest | \$ |
| Eighth Note | ♪ | 1/8 | Eighth Note Rest | 4 |
| Sixteenth Note | A | 1/16 | Sixteenth Note Rest | 4 |
| Thirty-second Note | B | 1/32 | Thirty-second Note Rest | 4 |

Eighth notes, sixteenth-notes, and thirty-second notes are often bound together in pairs or groups of three, four or more notes.



These groups may consist of varying combinations of the different notes.

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Sixteenth-Note Triplets

Mixed With Eighth Notes







