

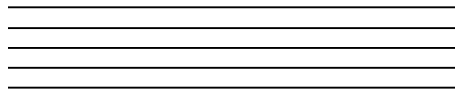
# Music Basics

## Lesson 4

### Lines and Space/ Sharps and Flats



We start with the **STAFF** – which is basically a set of five parallel lines:



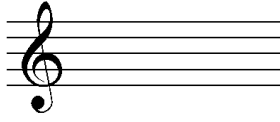
You can think of the staff as a graph. Going up and down represents pitch. Going across represents time. Think of an imaginary line sweeping across the page. How fast the line moves determine the tempo, or speed at which the song is played. Several staves are put on one page, and we read them from the top left.

In much classical music, two (or sometimes more!) staves will be grouped together by a bracket at the left end of the line, forming what is known as the “grand staff.” The “treble” and “bass” staves are read together, not one at a time.

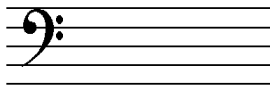
In pop music, the grand staff is not usually used

The staff is marked with a “clef” sign. The clef we will use is called the “treble clef:”

Here’s how the treble clef looks on the staff:



The bass clef is used to represent what the pianist plays with the left hand. This is mainly for classical pianists, so we won't be using it much, but it's included here so you can see what it looks like:



Music notation is just basically some dots written on lines, or the spaces between the lines. What do these "dots" represent? In pop music they represent the **MELODY**. By definition a melody can only be one note at a time, so when you play a melody on the piano, you only need to play one note at a time. On the piano, the melody is almost always played with the right hand.

The individual "dots," or notes on a line of music tell you two main things:

1. The pitch of the note: how high or low
2. The duration of the note: how long it's held.

To sum up the art of reading music: It's making the connection between the notes on the staff of music, and the actual keys on the keyboard.

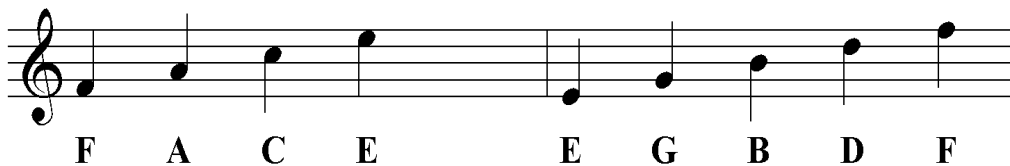
In studying the staff, you may determine that there are **five lines and four spaces**.

Each line and space represent a note in music. We give the notes letter names: **A, B, C, D, E, F, and G**.

Of course, every kid who took music lessons remembers the mnemonics used to help them memorize the lines and spaces on the treble clef staff:

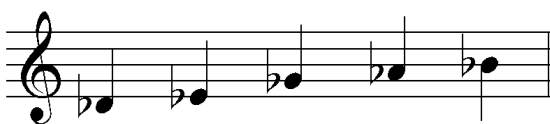
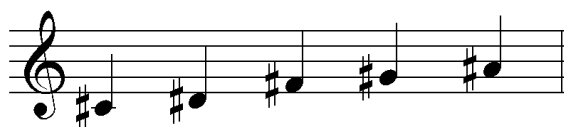
**"E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**oes **F**ine." For the lines, and **"F A C E"** for the spaces.

Of course, if you're a girl, for the lines you could use "Every Girl Beats Dudes Finally." If you'd like a totally non-sexist version, you could try "Every Good Bird Does Fly." Or you could just make one up!



The lines and the spaces read together read from the bottom up as **E F G A B C D E F**. Music uses the letters A through G in a repeating pattern.

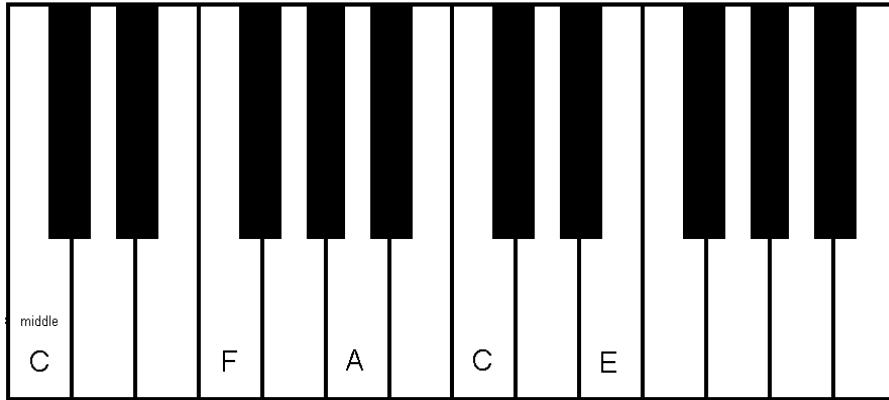
This is what the sharps and flats look like in music notation.



NOTES are the "dots" on either a line or a space on the staff. The note takes its name from the line or space it is located on. Every note placed on the staff represents a key on the piano. These notes on the staff:



Correspond to these notes on the keyboard:



## Ledger Lines

If notes are placed above or below the staff, “extra” lines are written in, called “ledger lines.” These lines are just long enough for the notes. (See below)

Here are all the notes on the treble clef that you will most likely end up using when playing songs:

