

Scale Degree Names

C Major

Scale: C Major

Scale Degrees: 1̂, 2̂, 3̂, 4̂, 5̂, 6̂, 7̂, 1̂

Scale Degree Names: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Subdominant, Dominant, Submediant, Leading Tone, Tonic

C Natural Minor

Scale: C Natural Minor

Scale Degrees: 1̂, 2̂, 3̂, 4̂, 5̂, 6̂, 7̂, 1̂

Scale Degree Names: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Subdominant, Dominant, Submediant, Subtonic, Tonic

C Harmonic Minor

Scale: C Harmonic Minor

Scale Degrees: 1̂, 2̂, 3̂, 4̂, 5̂, 6̂, 7̂, 1̂

Scale Degree Names: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Mediant, Dominant, Submediant, Leading Tone, Tonic

C Melodic Minor

Scale: C Melodic Minor

Scale Degrees: 1̂, 2̂, 3̂, 4̂, 5̂, 6̂, 7̂, 1̂

Scale Degree Names: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Subdominant, Dominant, Submediant, Leading Tone, Tonic

Above are the major scale, and the three forms of the minor scale, starting on C. Each pitch in the scale have both a number and a name. The numbers with a caret above, the *scale degree number*, represent each pitch's position in the scale. Notice that since the scale ends on the same pitch it begins with, the last pitch is also labeled the same as the first.

The first (and last) pitch of the scale, the pitch upon which the scale is based, has the *scale degree name* of Tonic.

The next most important pitch is the fifth step above the tonic, called the Dominant.

The fourth scale degree is called Subdominant because it is the fifth step BELOW the tonic.

The Mediant, the third scale degree is in the middle between Tonic and Dominant.

The Submediant is in the middle between Tonic and Subdominant.

The Leading Tone is one half-step below Tonic. It tends to lead to Tonic (do the experiment suggested in the Sound - The Harmonic Minor page).

The Supertonic is a whole-step (two half-steps) above the Tonic.

The Subtonic appears ONLY in the natural minor scale. This is the only scale of the four in which the seventh scale degree is a WHOLE-STEP below Tonic.