

READY TO READ MUSIC

SEQUENTIAL LESSONS IN MUSIC READING READINESS

Jay Althouse

Full Page

Lesson Reproducible Symbols

Introduction	3
Unit 1 – Staff, Clefs, Notes	5
1. The Staff	6 76
2. Treble Clef	7 77
3. Bass Clef	8 78
4. Notes	9
5. Whole Note	10 79
6. Half Note	12 80
7. Quarter Note	14 81
8. Eighth Note	16 82
Unit 2 – Rhythm	19
1. Rests	20
2. Whole Rest and Half Rest	22 83, 84
3. Quarter Rest and Eighth Rest	24 85, 86
4. Barlines and Measures	26 87, 88
5. Beats	28
6. Time Signature	30 89
7. Dots	32 90, 91
8. Ties	34 92
Unit 3 – Pitch	37
1. Note Names in the Treble Clef	39 93
2. Note Names in the Bass Clef	42 94
3. Ledger Lines	44 95
4. Grand Staff	46 96
5. Sharp and Flat	48 97, 98
6. Key Signatures	51
7. Naming Key Signatures	54 99, 100
8. Natural Sign and Accidentals	56 101
Unit 4 – More Musical Symbols and Terms	59
1. How Loud? How Soft?	60 102
2. More About Loud and Soft	62 103
3. How Fast? How Slow?	64 104
4. Staccato and Fermata	66 105, 106
5. Accent, Tenuto, and Marcato	68 107
6. Repeats, First and Second Endings	70 108, 109
7. Vocal Music	71
8. Putting It All Together (<i>L'il Liza Jane</i>)	72
The Symbols of Music	75
Review Answer Key	110
<i>The Water Is Wide</i> , a performance piece	116
<i>Ready to Read Music</i> Certificate	120



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LESSON 1 *The Staff*

Before you learned to read, you learned the letters of the alphabet. Letters are the symbols that make up words.

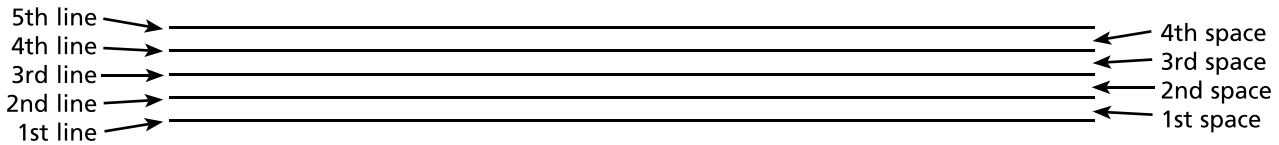
Learning to read music is the same. Before you can read music you must learn the symbols of music. Just as the letters of the alphabet can be combined to form words and sentences, the symbols of music

can be combined to form music. When you have learned the symbols of music, you will see how they are combined to form music.

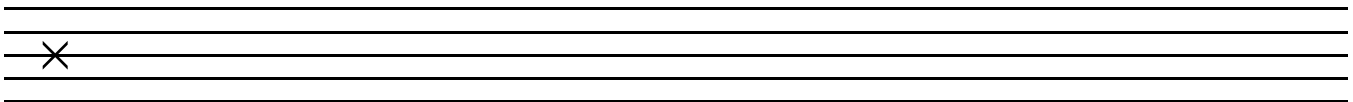
The symbols of music are placed on, or between, or near a group of five lines and four spaces called a **staff**. A **staff** usually runs all the way across a page, like this:



The lines of a **staff** and the spaces between the lines are numbered, like this:



Write an x on the correct line, or in the correct space.



Write an x on the 3rd line

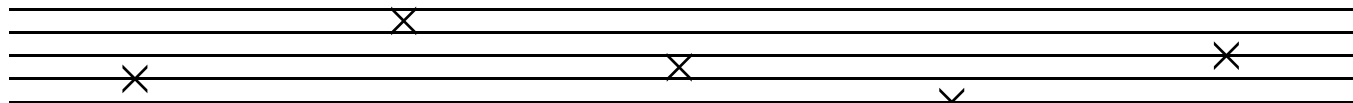
Write an x in the 4th space

Write an x on the 1st line

Write an x in the 2nd space

Write an x on the 3rd line

The x is on which line or in which space?



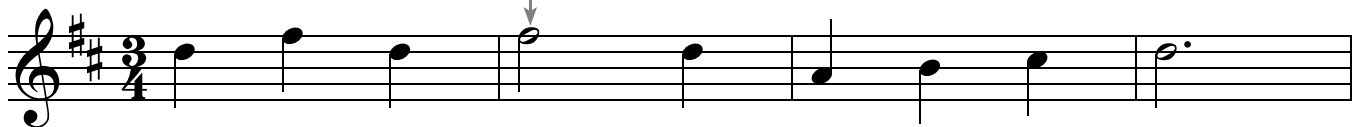
2nd line

LESSON 8 *Natural Sign and Accidentals*

Sometimes, even with a **key signature**, **flats** and **sharps** have to be added in a piece of music. Look at this piece of music which has **flats** in the **key signature** and **sharps** in front of several **notes**.



Suppose a composer wrote a song with a **key signature** of two sharps but wanted this **note** to be an F instead of an F#.



The composer would place a different musical symbol, called a **natural**, in front of the F, like this:



A **natural** tells a music reader not to sing or play the **flat** or **sharp** shown in the **key signature**. In this example, the note in the box is called an F \natural (F-natural.) The **natural** sign “erases” the F# in the **key signature**...*but only for that one measure.*

Here's how to draw a **natural**.



When **sharps**, **flats**, and **natural** signs are placed throughout a piece of music they are called **accidentals**. **Accidentals** last for one **measure**. In other words, **accidentals** are “erased” by a **barline**.

