

Stage 1

The Golden Rules

There are two golden rules of sight-reading – know them as well as you know your own name and you'll end up sight-reading music as well as you are sight-reading these words!



Playing the notes is not really a big problem in sight-reading. Playing them in time is not so easy.

That is why it is important that you **always count**.

Music only really makes sense when it keeps going – if music is played with pauses and hesitations it doesn't sound much like music. Try singing *Happy Birthday* with lots of pauses and you won't be very pleased with the results.

That's why you should **never stop**.

Remind yourself of the two Golden Rules every time you sight-read.

Just a quick word about why it's so important to be a good sight-reader. Imagine what life would be like if you weren't very good at sight-reading words. You'd have great trouble reading text messages, a book, or the instructions for your favourite computer games. Because you can read words fluently you can read almost anything you want.

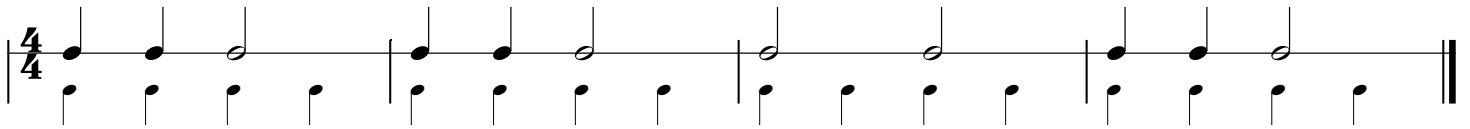
It's the same with music – the more fluent you are the more music you will be able to play. You'll be able to learn pieces more quickly, accompany and play duets with your friends and play for the family Christmas carols. And of course you'll be able to get higher marks in music exams!

Stage 5

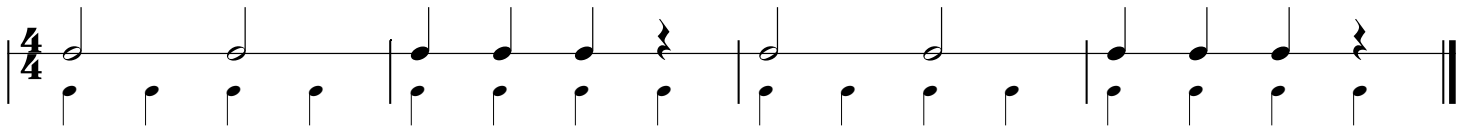
Reading
around the
middle C
position

Rhythmic exercises

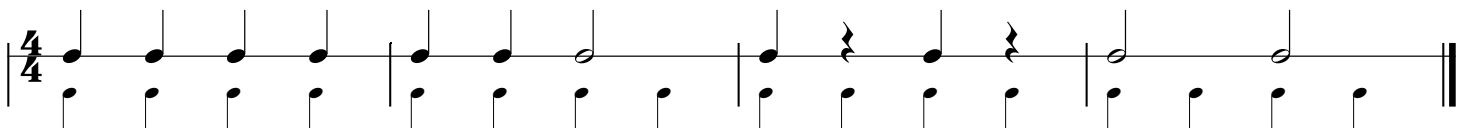
1



2



3



Melodic exercises

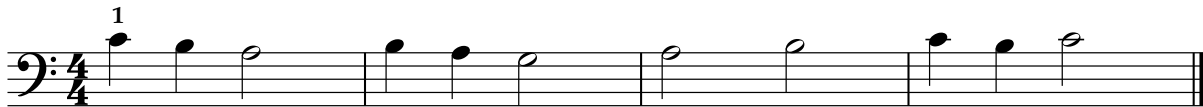
Can you see any scale patterns?



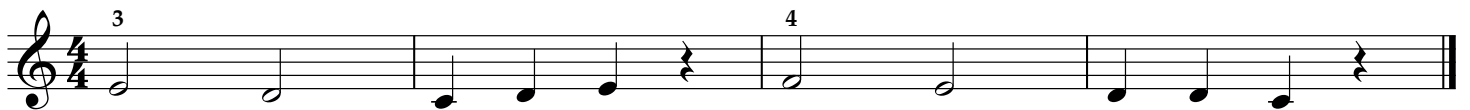
1



2



3



4



5



6



Prepared pieces

Always keep going when you're sight-reading.



- 1 Think about which finger you will use for the first note of each piece. Explain your choices.
- 2 What are the letter names of the notes in the first bar of each piece?
- 3 How many beats will you count in each bar? Clap or tap the rhythm.
- 4 What will you do before beginning each piece?
- 5 Can you find any repeated patterns (rhythmic or melodic)?
- 6 Hear each piece in your head before you play.

1

Heavily



2

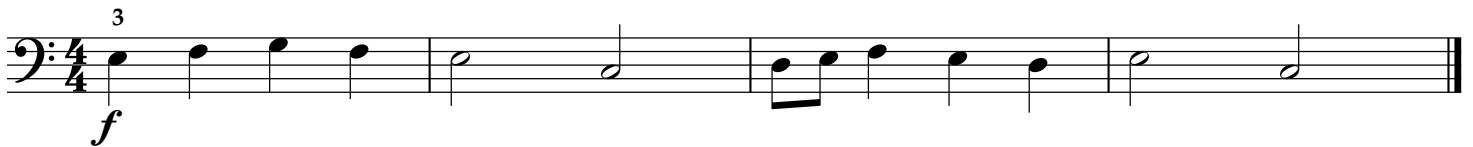
Lightly



Going solo

1

Chocolately



2

Like a warm, red woollen scarf



Teacher's or student's comments box:

