

Day 11



Counting

It's important to know how to count the beats in a song you're playing, especially if you want to play with other people. If you can't count properly, you won't be playing in time with everyone else. Counting isn't too difficult with a little practice, especially now that you've learned about time signatures and the values different notes have.



The top number in this 4/4 time signature tells you that there are four beats to each and every measure within a piece of music. The bottom number tells you that a 1/4 note gets one beat.



Some students wonder why this note is called a quarter note if it gets one beat. If it's a whole beat, shouldn't it be a whole note?

The answer is that note names are given based on how long a note is played within each measure, not how many beats it has.



A whole note is played for the **WHOLE** measure. That's why it's called a whole note.

A whole note equals two $\frac{1}{2}$ notes. Each half note is played for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the measure.

A whole note equals four $\frac{1}{4}$ notes. Each quarter note is played for one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the measure.

A whole note also equals eight eighth notes. Each eighth note is played for an eighth ($\frac{1}{8}$) of the measure.