

# Let's Read Music

## I, Beats

This lesson sheet focuses on the musical beat. When you find yourself moving in response to music, that's your body responding to the beat. Some beats have a stronger impact than others, which gives music a unique character.

**Goal:** understand the musical beat, hows beats are grouped in measures, and use time signatures to number and identify the beats.

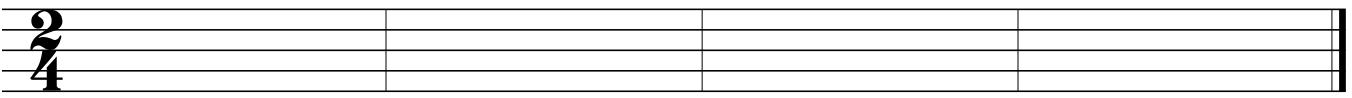


This is the two-four time signature. Both of these numbers have a purpose, but right now, focus on just the top number, 2. This top number tells you how many beats are contained in one measure.

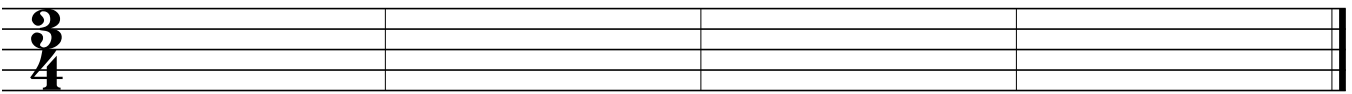


This is a measure. A measure is defined as "the division of time by which the air and movement of music are regulated." The lines and spaces are used to read music. Right now, we'll use the measure just as a means of organizing the beats.

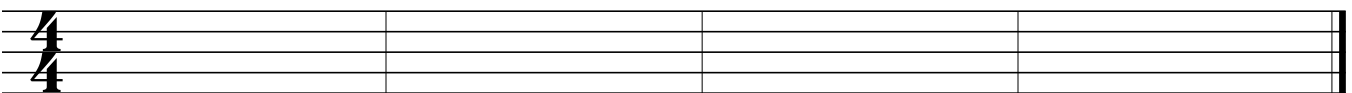
Exercise 1.1 has four measures with a two-four time signature. Since we know that the top number (two) indicates the number of beats in a measure, we know that each measure has two beats (which are numbered for you). For this exercise, your teacher will count the beats evenly with you while clapping for each beat. Repeat the same process for Exercises 1.2 and 1.3.

Exercise 1.1 

Beats: 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

Exercise 1.2 

Beats: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

Exercise 1.3 

Beats: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Coursework 1.1 On each time signature below, circle the number that represents the beat, then list the number of beats under each measure. Present to teacher next week and count the beats while clapping.



Beats: Beats:



Beats: Beats: