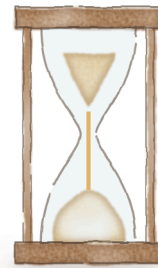


Piano Note Detective

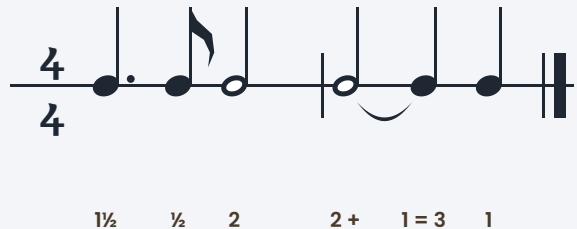
Dots & Ties Duration Cases

A dot makes a note half again as long. A tie joins two notes into one long sound. Count dotted quarters and tied notes, tell a tie from a slur, and find the password that starts the old clock again.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: the dot adds half
- Beats of dotted notes
- Fill a bar of 4/4
- Answers with reasons



- 1** Spot the dots and ties
- 2** Count each length
- 3** Add the beats
- 4** Clap and play

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For students who count eighth notes · Five sittings of about 15 minutes ·
With a piano or keyboard

How the case file works

Five cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a student who counts quarter, half and eighth notes. A dot after a note adds half of its value: a dotted half lasts 3 beats, a dotted quarter 1½. A tie is a curve between two neighboring notes of the same pitch: play the first, hold it through the second. A slur looks similar but covers a group of notes, even one that ends on the note it began with: play them all, smoothly.

EACH CASE

The story	Read it aloud together. It says what the detective is looking for.
Learn	The rule for this case, with a picture. Point at it while you read it.
Tasks	Short tasks that use the rule. Each one has a single right answer (except play tasks).
Clue	The last task gives a clue for the final question.

YOU NEED

- A pencil
- Hands for clapping and a piano or keyboard
- Five short sittings, one case each

GOOD TO KNOW

- Count steadily "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &": a dotted quarter on beat 1 lasts through "1 & 2", and the eighth after it comes on the "&" of 2.
- A tie adds the two lengths together, and the key is pressed once.
- A tie joins two neighboring notes on the same line or space; a curve over a group of notes is a slur.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Rhythm-reading practice for students, not music lessons. Simple meters only (2/4, 3/4, 4/4).

Case 1: The Dot Adds Half

Dotted half = 3 beats; dotted quarter = $1\frac{1}{2}$

THE STORY

The old clock in the music room has stopped. Next to it lie five duration cards: each solved card gives one letter of the password that starts it again.

LEARN

- A dot adds half of the note's value: a half note (2) plus 1 makes a dotted half (3).
- A quarter note (1) plus $\frac{1}{2}$ makes a dotted quarter ($1\frac{1}{2}$).
- A dotted quarter is often followed by an eighth note: together they fill two beats.

A musical staff with a 4/4 time signature. It contains three notes: a dotted half note, a quarter note, and a half note. Below the staff, the durations are labeled: $1\frac{1}{2}$ beats, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 2 beats. The staff ends with a double bar line.

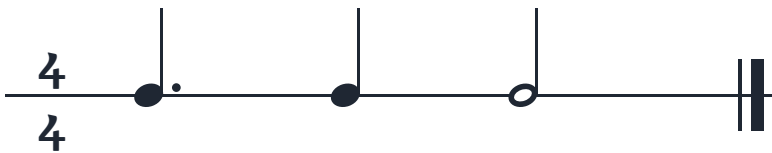
1 How many beats does each note last? Write $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2 or 3.

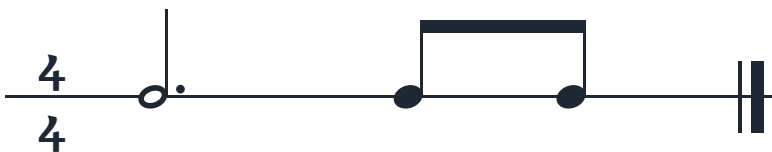
A musical staff with a 4/4 time signature. It contains five notes, each numbered above it: 1 (dotted half), 2 (quarter), 3 (half), 4 (dotted quarter), and 5 (quarter). Below each note is an empty square box for the answer. The staff ends with a double bar line.

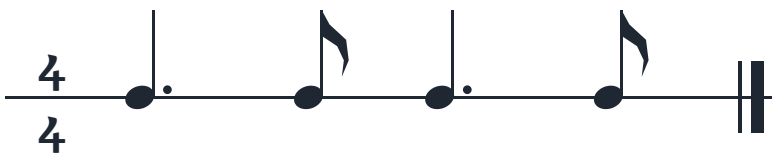
Case 1: The Dot Adds Half (continued)

2 Does each bar of 4/4 hold exactly four beats?

1. 

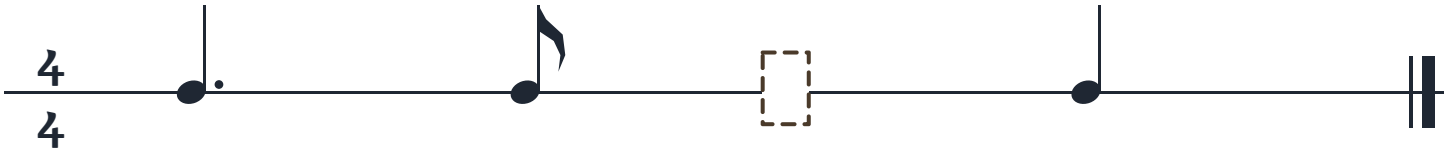
2. 

3. 

4. 

Case 1: The Dot Adds Half (continued)

3 This bar of 4/4 needs four beats. Which note fills the box?



B



C



D



Circle the letter that fills the box:

B

C

D

CLUE 1

The first letter is the letter of the note that fills the box in task 3.



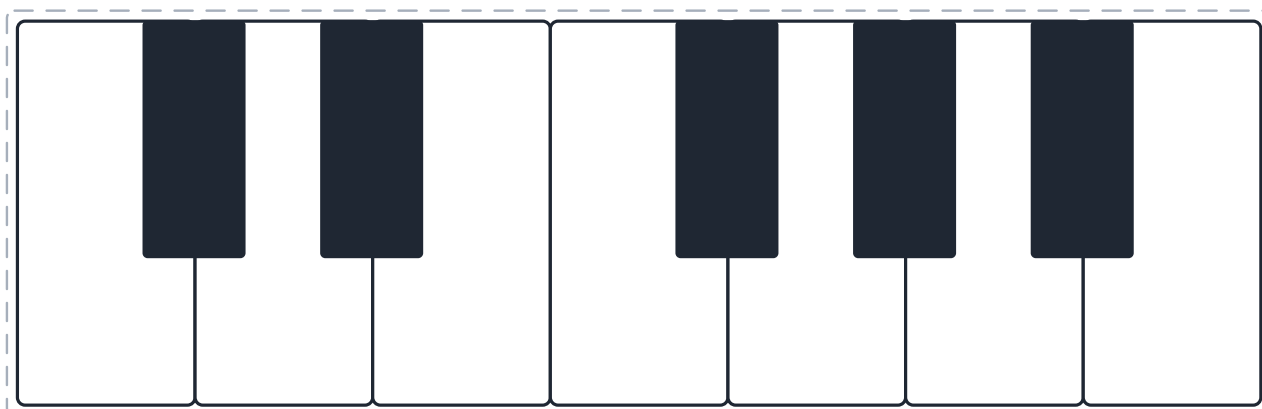
Clue:

Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.

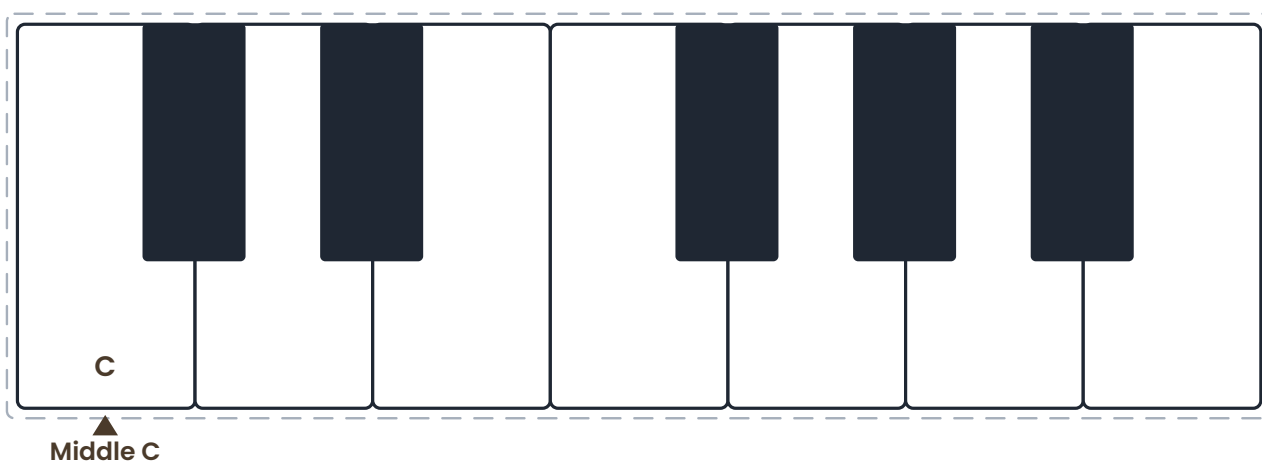
Paper keyboard

Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

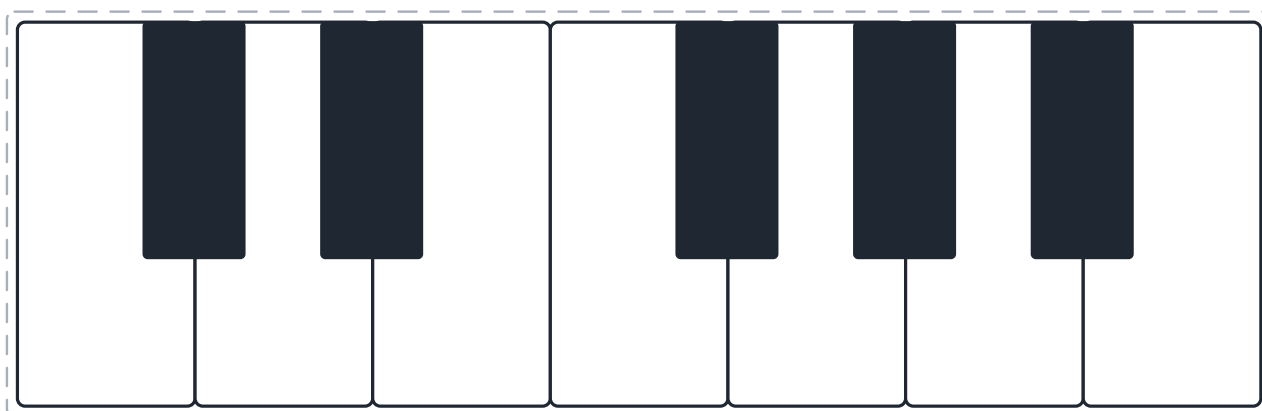
Low



Middle



High



Only Middle C is labeled: finding the other keys is the detective's job. Tape the rows edge to edge (low on the left) to make one long keyboard.

Case 1 answers

Every answer comes with its reason. Read the reasons aloud: they teach.

CASE 1 · THE DOT ADDS HALF

Task 1

1 $1\frac{1}{2}$ · 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ · 3 2 · 4 3 · 5 1

PND27-C1-T1

A dotted quarter note lasts $1\frac{1}{2}$ beats (the dot adds half: $1 + \frac{1}{2}$). An eighth note lasts $\frac{1}{2}$ beat. A half note lasts 2 beats. A dotted half note lasts 3 beats (the dot adds half: $2 + 1$). A quarter note lasts 1 beat.

Task 2

1 yes · 2 no · 3 yes · 4 yes

PND27-C1-T2

$1\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + 2 = 4$ beats: right. $1\frac{1}{2} + 1 + 2 = 4\frac{1}{2}$ beats: not 4. $3 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 4$ beats: right. $1\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 4$ beats: right.

Task 3

C: quarter note (1 beat)

PND27-C1-T3

Bar 1 needs 4 beats. It has 3 ($1\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + 1$), so 1 beat is missing: quarter note.

Clue 1

C (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Dots & Ties Duration Cases has four more cases: ties, tie or slur, bars with dots and a clap-and-play case, with duration cards, a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.