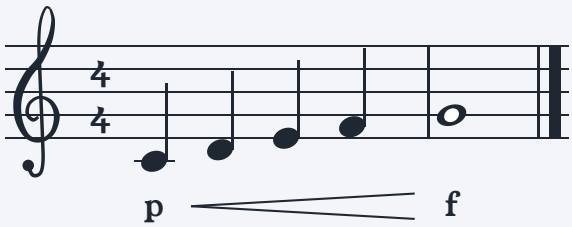
Piano Note Detective

Dynamic Sound Lab: Soft, Loud & Getting Louder

The same notes can whisper or shout. Read p and f, mp and mf, follow the wedges that grow louder and softer, hear the difference, and play it, while the notes and the beat stay the same.

IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: soft and loud
- How loud is each note?
- Play soft, then loud
- Answers with reasons

Start soft (p), grow louder, arrive loud (f).

1 **Find the marks**

2 **Soft or loud?**

3 **Follow the wedges**

4 **Same notes, same beat**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For students who read short tunes on the treble staff · Five sittings of about 15 minutes · With a grown-up and an acoustic piano or a touch-sensitive keyboard

How the case file works

Five cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a student who reads short tunes on the treble staff. Dynamics are the loudness marks under the music: p (piano) means soft and f (forte) means loud, with m (mezzo, medium) and pp, ff for very soft and very loud. A wedge that opens (crescendo) means getting louder; one that closes (decrescendo) means getting softer. Only the loudness changes: the notes and the beat stay the same.

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
- An acoustic piano, or a digital piano or keyboard that plays louder when the keys are pressed harder
- A grown-up for the listening case
- The dynamics cards at the back (cut out)

GOOD TO KNOW

- A mark lasts until the next mark.
- Louder is not faster: keep the beat steady through a crescendo.
- On a digital piano, check that it responds to how hard the keys are played.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Reading and playing practice for students, not piano lessons. Listening is teacher-led: the book makes no sound.

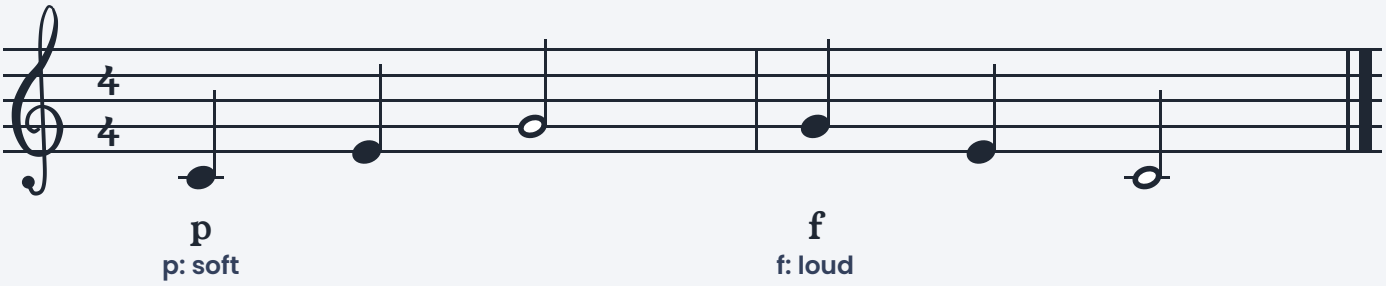
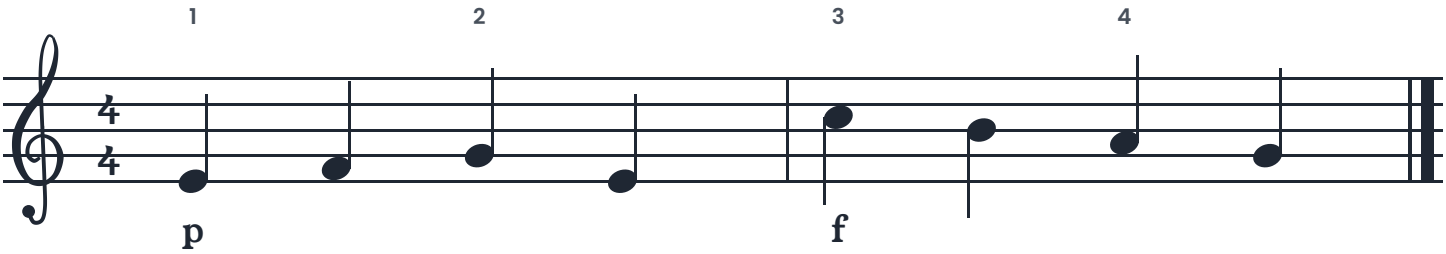
Case 1: Soft and Loud

p means soft, f means loud

THE STORY

The library's night guard plays piano after closing time, but the music must be soft near the sleeping parrot and loud by the far wall. Five clues show where.

LEARN

- Dynamics sit under the staff.
- p (piano) means soft. f (forte) means loud.
- A mark lasts until the next one.

1 How loud is each numbered note? Write soft or loud.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

2 Play the tune of task 1: bar 1 soft, bar 2 loud. Keep the same speed in both bars.

I played it | I played it with help

Case 1: Soft and Loud (continued)

3 Choose the best answer.

1. A tune starts with p and has no other mark. How loud is the last note?

   (F) soft
   (G) loud
   (H) medium

CLUE 1

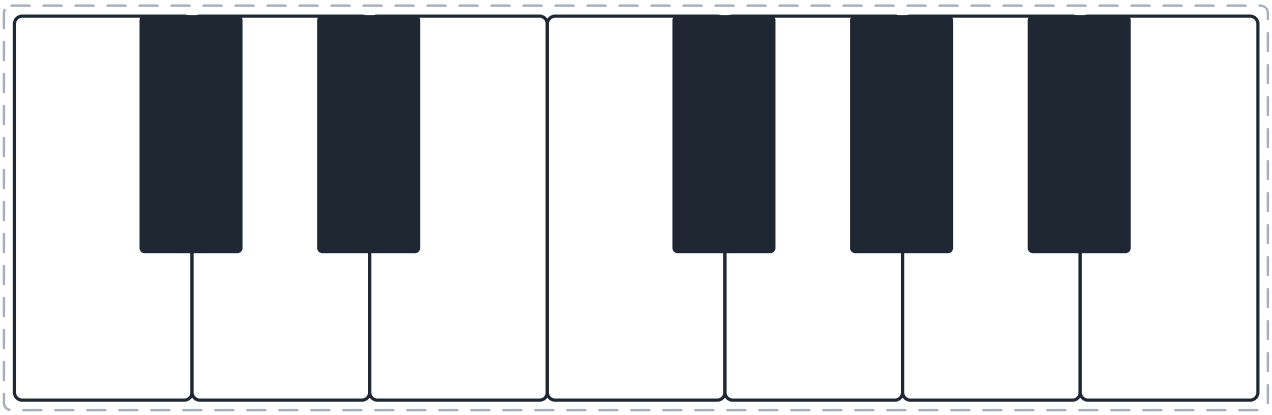
The first letter is the letter of your answer to task 3.

Clue: _____ **Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.**

Paper keyboard

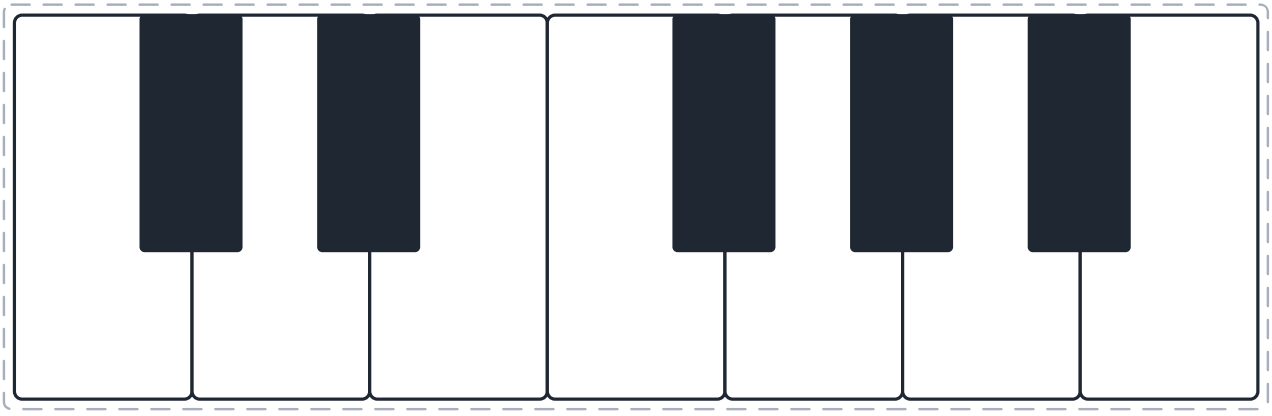
Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

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 · SOFT AND LOUD

Task 1 **PND25-C1-T1**	1 soft · 2 soft · 3 loud · 4 loud Note 1: the last mark before it is p (soft). Note 2: the last mark before it is p (soft). Note 3: the last mark before it is f (loud). Note 4: the last mark before it is f (loud).
Task 2 **PND25-C1-T2**	Bar 1 soft, bar 2 loud, one steady beat.
Task 3 **PND25-C1-T3**	1 F: soft A mark lasts until the next mark: still p.
Clue 1	F (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Dynamic Sound Lab has four more cases: the six marks, crescendo and decrescendo, hearing loudness and shaping a tune, with 24 dynamics cards, a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.