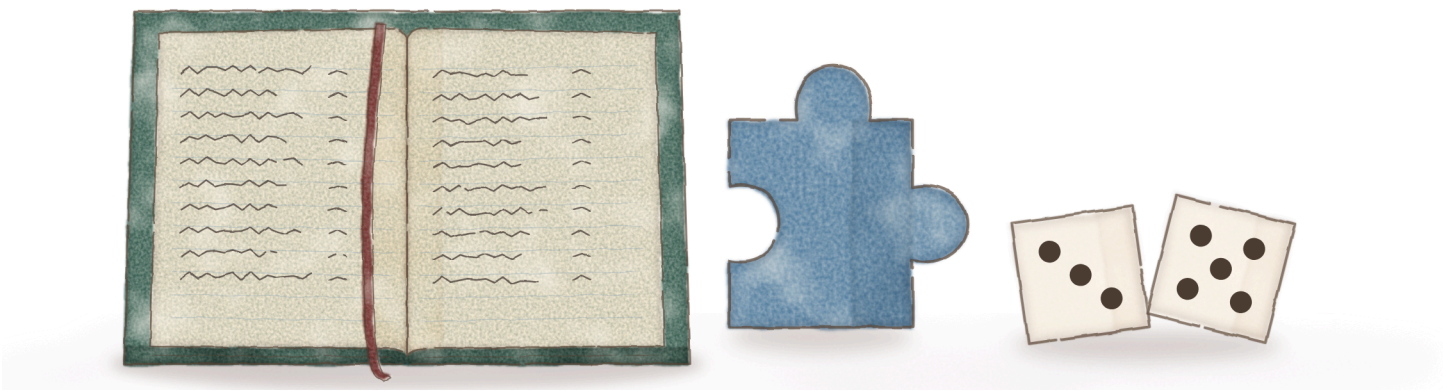
FREE SAMPLE · CASE 1

Piano Note Detective

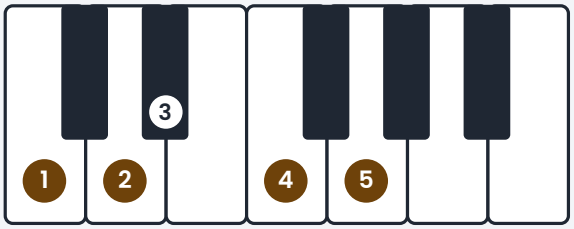
Major & Minor Five-Finger Codes

Five fingers, five keys, two secret codes: whole, whole, half, whole for major, and whole, half, whole, whole for minor. Build them, sort them, and hear the one note that changes.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: the major code
- Whole and half steps in C major
- Build a G major pattern
- Answers with reasons



C minor: the third key moves down a half step from C major.

1 **Find the first key**

2 **Count the steps**

3 **Major or minor?**

4 **Play and listen**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For students who know half and whole steps and a five-finger position · 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 knows half and whole steps and can play a five-finger position. Five neighboring letters, played with five fingers, make a five-finger pattern. The pattern's half and whole steps make a code: major goes whole, whole, half, whole; minor goes whole, half, whole, whole. Case 4 needs a grown-up to play examples on a piano.

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
- A piano or keyboard (the paper keyboard in this book is enough for building patterns)
- For the listening case: a real piano or keyboard and a grown-up who plays the script

GOOD TO KNOW

- Use each letter once: D major is D, E, F sharp, G, A (not G flat).
- Only the middle (third) note differs between major and minor on the same first note.
- People describe major and minor in many ways; listen for the third note rather than for a mood.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Theory and keyboard practice for beginners, not piano lessons. Five-note patterns only; full scales and key signatures come in other books.

Case 1: The Major Code

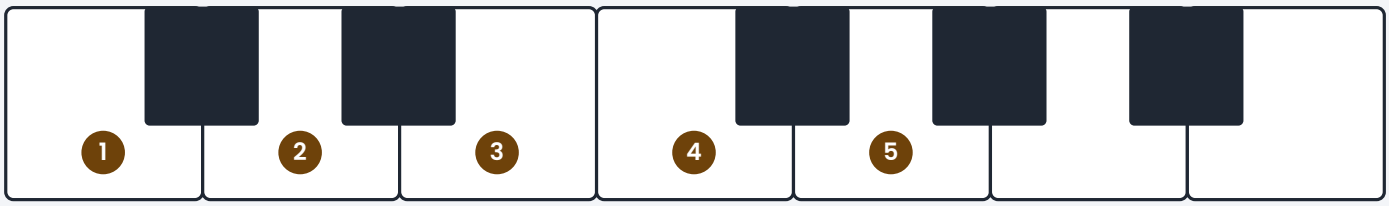
Major five-finger pattern: whole, whole, half, whole

THE STORY

A composer left five tunes in a locked folder, each written with a secret code of steps. Crack the codes to find the folder's label.

LEARN

- A five-finger pattern uses five neighboring letters: C, D, E, F, G.
- Its steps are a code. C major goes whole, whole, half, whole.
- Start the same code on another key and you get another major pattern: G, A, B, C, D.



C major: 1 to 2 whole, 2 to 3 whole, 3 to 4 half, 4 to 5 whole.

1 Write W (whole step) or H (half step) in each box between the notes.

C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

2 Fill in the missing note of the G major five-finger pattern. Use the keyboard to check the steps.



G	A	B		D
1	2	3	4	5

Case 1: The Major Code (continued)

3 Choose the code.

1. Which step code makes a major five-finger pattern?

   (T) whole, whole, half, whole
   (P) whole, half, whole, whole
   (L) half, whole, whole, whole

CLUE 1

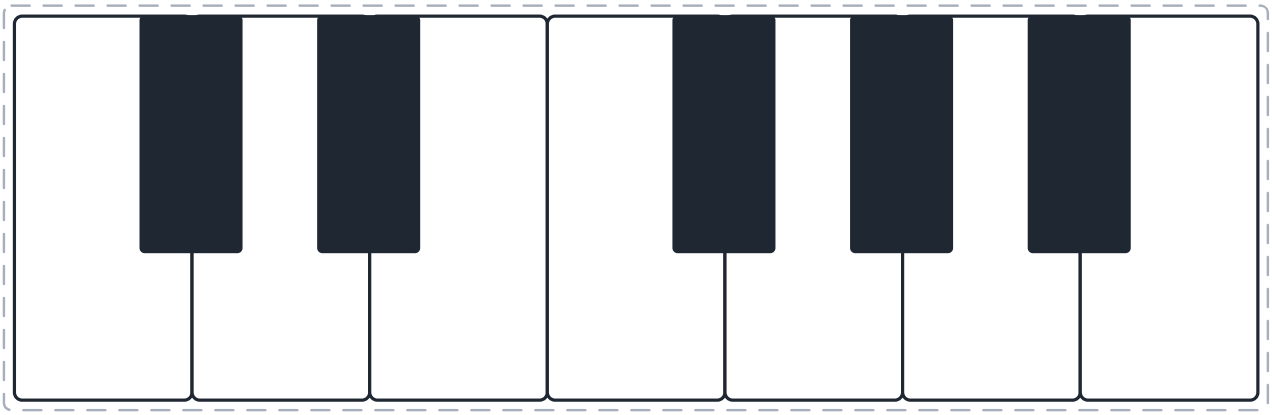
The first letter of the label is the letter of your answer to task 3.

Clue: _____ **In the full case file, the clues from every case solve 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.

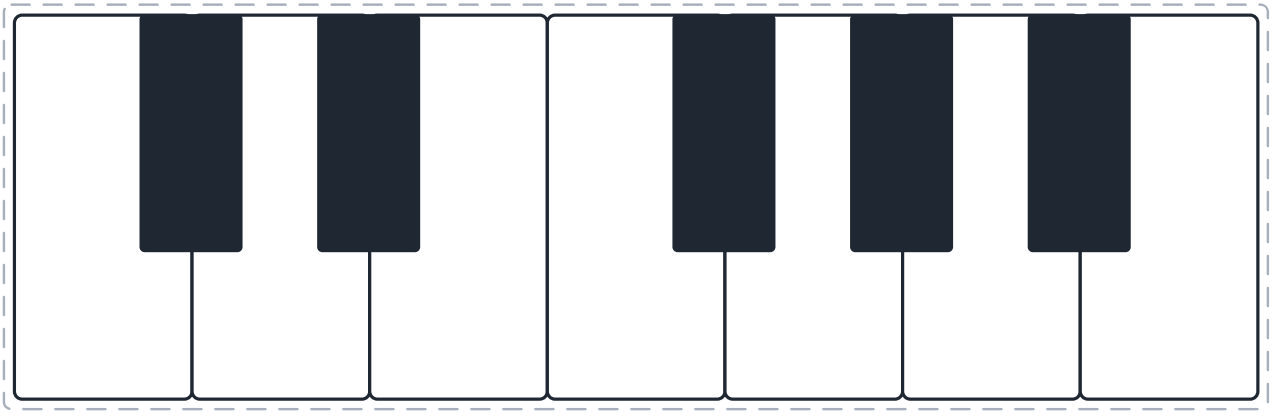
Low



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 MAJOR CODE

Task 1
PND34-C1-T1

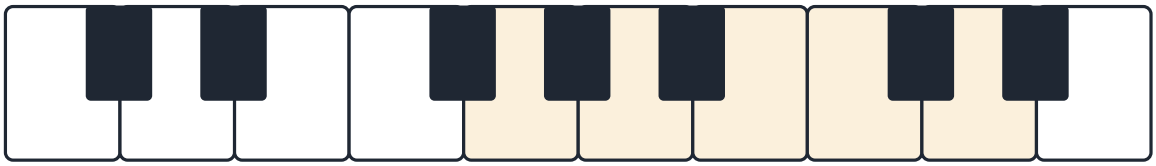
1 W · 2 W · 3 H · 4 W

C to D: one key between, a whole step; D to E: one key between, a whole step; E to F: the very next key, a half step; F to G: one key between, a whole step.

Task 2
PND34-C1-T2

G A B [C] D

G major five-finger pattern: W W H W. Half steps here: B-C.



Task 3
PND34-C1-T3

1 T: whole, whole, half, whole

Major: whole, whole, half, whole (C, D, E, F, G).

Clue 1

T (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Major & Minor Five-Finger Codes has four more cases: the minor code, sorting patterns, teacher-led listening and building new patterns, with a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.