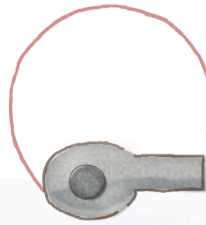


# Piano Note Detective

## Pickup Beats & the Count-In

Some tunes start before the first full bar: a pickup. Count how many beats it holds, find the beat it starts on, and count yourself in so you start at exactly the right moment.



### IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: the short first bar
- Beats in the pickup
- The start beat
- Answers with reasons



Count "1, 2, 3" silently, and play the pickup on 4.

- 1 Find the short bar
- 2 Count its beats
- 3 Count in
- 4 Start on time

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For students who count beats in 3/4 and 4/4 · Three sittings of about 15 minutes · With a piano and a partner

# How the case file works

Three cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a student who counts beats in  $3/4$  and  $4/4$ . A pickup (also called an anacrusis or upbeat) is a short first bar: the tune starts before the first full bar. To start on time, count the beats before the pickup silently, then play. Often the last bar is short by the same amount, so the two together make one full bar; not every piece does this.

## EACH CASE

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

## YOU NEED

- A pencil
- A piano or keyboard
- A partner for the count-in case

## GOOD TO KNOW

- Count the pickup's beats first, then count back from the end of the bar to find its start.
- Count in out loud at first, then whisper, then silently.
- Keep the same speed for the count-in and the tune.

### NOT A METHOD BOOK

Rhythm practice for students, not music lessons.  $3/4$  and  $4/4$  only.

# Case 1: The Short First Bar

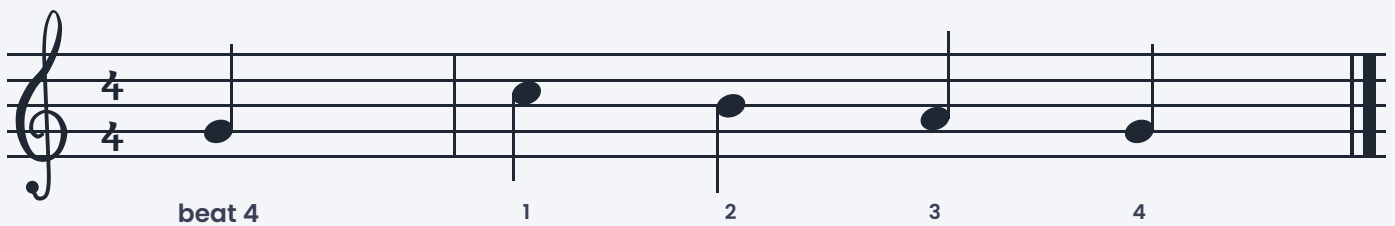
A pickup bar holds fewer beats than the time signature

## THE STORY

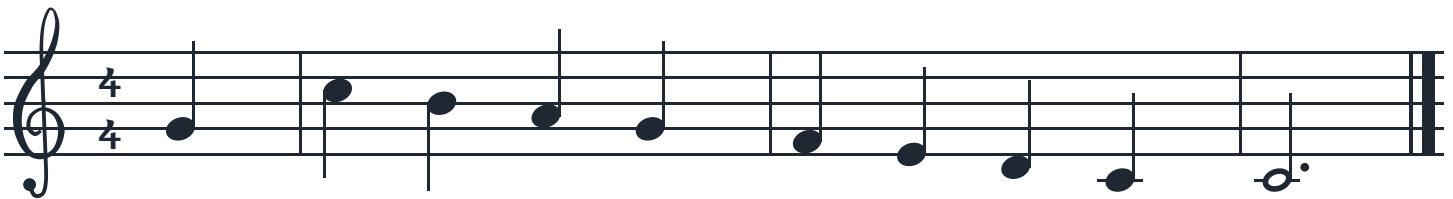
The school band starts its new march one beat early, and the drummer is always late. Three race-start codes will fix it.

## LEARN

- A pickup is a short first bar: the tune starts before the first full bar.
- Count the pickup's beats. In 4/4, one beat of pickup means the tune starts on beat 4.
- Count the missing beats silently, then play.



- 1 Find the short first bar of this march.



How many beats are in the pickup bar?

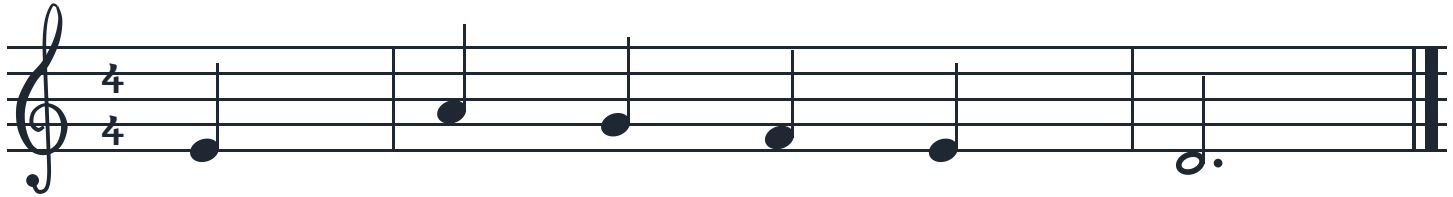
## Case 1: The Short First Bar (continued)

2 Write the beat number under each note. Start the pickup on the right beat.



Use 1, 2, 3 or 4.

3 Count 1, 2, 3, 4 across the first full bar, then work back to the pickup.



The first note comes on beat number

### CLUE 1

The first digit of the start code is your answer to task 3.

Clue:

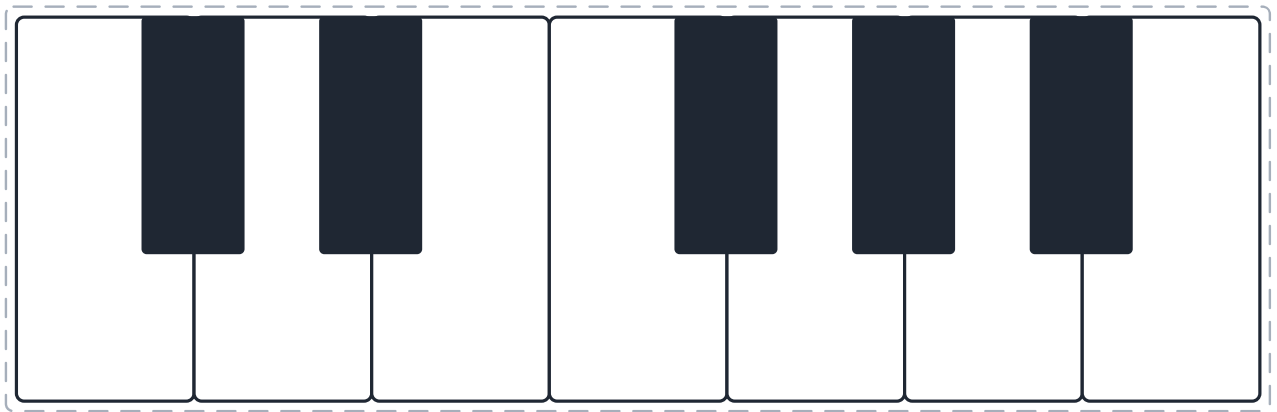
Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.



# 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.

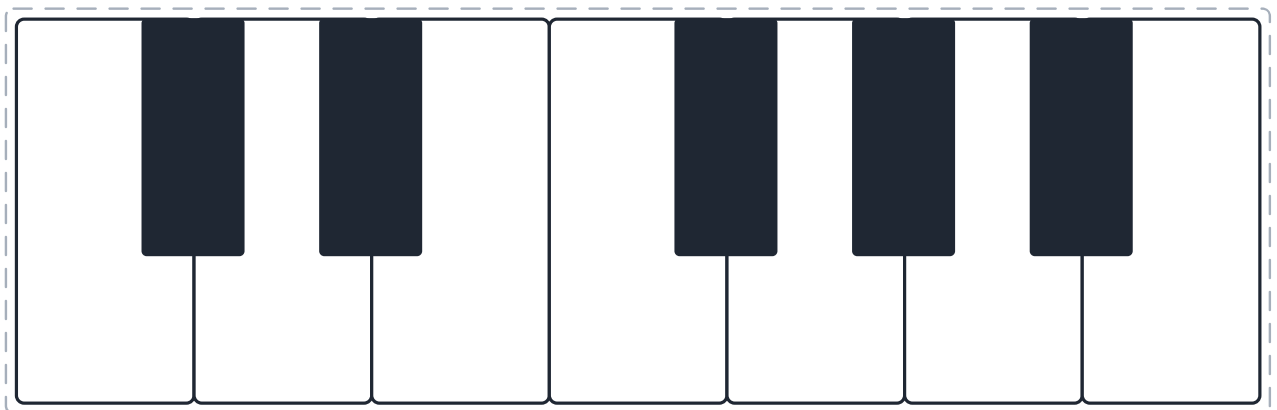
Low



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 · THE SHORT FIRST BAR

|             |                                                                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Task 1      | 1 beat                                                                              |
| PND28-C1-T1 | The first bar is short: it holds 1 beat, not 4.                                     |
| Task 2      | 1 4 · 2 1 · 3 2 · 4 3 · 5 4                                                         |
| PND28-C1-T2 | Count "1, 2, 3, 4" in each bar: each note gets the number of the beat it starts on. |
| Task 3      | beat 4                                                                              |
| PND28-C1-T3 | The pickup bar holds 1 beat: count "1, 2, 3, 4" and the first note comes on beat 4. |
| Clue 1      | 4 (the answer to item 1 of task 3)                                                  |

### THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Pickup Beats & the Count-In has two more cases: counting in for 3/4 and two-beat pickups, and starting together with a partner, with a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.