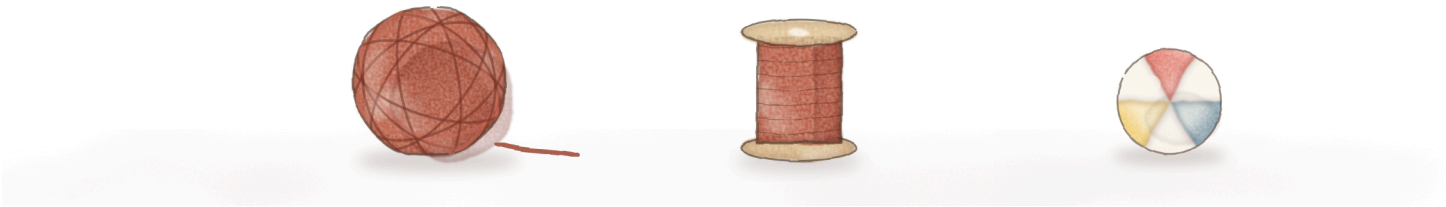
FREE SAMPLE · CASE 1

Piano Note Detective

Touch Detective: Legato, Staccato & Slurs

Smooth as a ribbon or short as a raindrop: the same notes can be played with different touches. Read slurs and staccato dots, tell a slur from a tie, hear the difference, and play one tune both ways.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: smooth notes
- Find the legato notes
- Play a slurred tune
- Answers with reasons



Under the slur: smooth. With dots: short.

1. **Look for curves and dots**
2. **Slur: connect**
3. **Dot: let go**
4. **Play and listen**

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 piano and a grown-up

How the case file works

Five cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a student who reads short tunes on the treble staff. Touch is how a note is played. Legato means smooth and connected: one key goes up as the next goes down. A slur, a curve over or under different notes, asks for legato. Staccato means short and detached: a dot over or under a note. A tie looks like a slur but joins two notes next to each other on the same line or space: play once and hold. A slur can cover a group that starts and ends on the same note.

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
- A grown-up for the listening case

GOOD TO KNOW

- A tie joins two neighboring notes on the same line or space; a slur covers a group of notes.
- Staccato is short, not loud.
- Scene cards have no single answer: try both touches and choose.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

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

Case 1: Smooth Notes

Legato: notes under a slur connect

THE STORY

The puppet theater's music has gone wrong: the smooth parts sound choppy and the bouncy parts sound sticky. Five clue cards will fix the score.

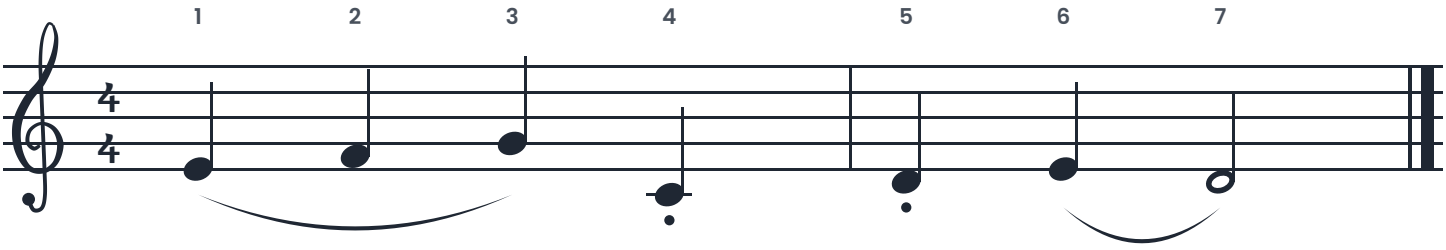
LEARN

- A slur is a curve over or under different notes.
- Play the notes under it legato: smooth, each key held until the next one sounds.
- At the end of a slur, lift gently.



legato

1 Legato or staccato? Circle the touch for each numbered note.



1. legato staccato
2. legato staccato
3. legato staccato
4. legato staccato
5. legato staccato
6. legato staccato
7. legato staccato

Case 1: Smooth Notes (continued)

2 Play the tune of task 1. Make the slurred notes smooth and the dotted notes short.

I played it | I played it with help

3 Choose the best answer.

1. What does a slur over three different notes ask for?

   (T) Play them smooth and connected
   (S) Hold the first note
   (V) Play them louder

CLUE 1

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

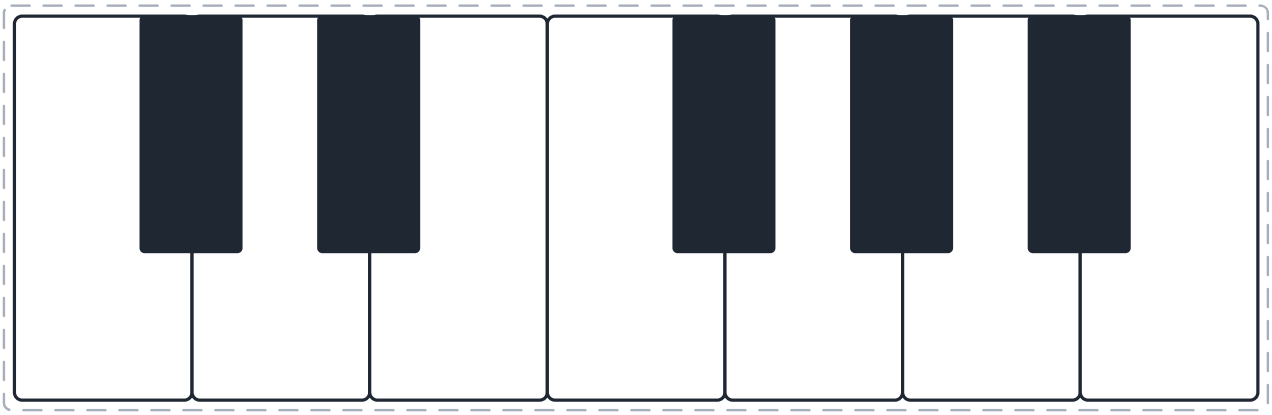
Clue: _____

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.

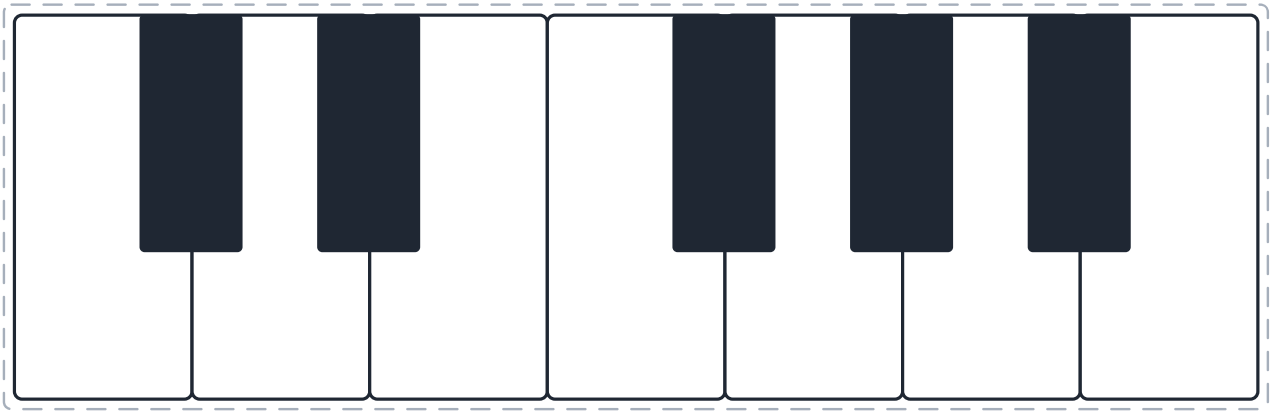
Low



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 · SMOOTH NOTES

Task 1 **PND24-C1-T1**	1 legato · 2 legato · 3 legato · 4 staccato · 5 staccato · 6 legato · 7 legato Note 1 is under a slur: smooth and connected. Note 2 is under a slur: smooth and connected. Note 3 is under a slur: smooth and connected. Note 4 has a dot: short and detached. Note 5 has a dot: short and detached. Note 6 is under a slur: smooth and connected. Note 7 is under a slur: smooth and connected.
Task 2 **PND24-C1-T2**	E–F–G connected, C and D short, E–D connected.
Task 3 **PND24-C1-T3**	1 T: Play them smooth and connected A slur over different notes means legato.
Clue 1	T (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Touch Detective has four more cases: staccato, slur or tie, hearing the touch and playing one tune two ways, with scene cards, a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.