

Time Signatures

The *time signature* is indicated at the beginning of a piece of music by two numbers, one above the other.

② When there is a **1, 2 or 4 at the bottom**, the **top number** represents the **number of beats** in a bar. However, when there is an **8 at the bottom**, the **top numbers 6, 9 or 12 must be divided by 3** to get the number of beats. $\frac{6}{8}$ has two beats ($6 \div 3 = 2$ beats) because **8** is at the bottom.

6 represents a part of a beat called a **pulse**.

$\frac{6}{8}$ is different because the 6 represents 6 pulses not beats (pulse is a smaller division of beat).

In $\frac{6}{8}$ there are **2 beats** and each beat has **3 pulses** (2 beats x 3 pulses = 6 pulses)

KNOW /25

A. In the examples given, tell how many beats are in each bar.

1. $\frac{4}{4}$ beats in each bar

2. $\frac{6}{8}$ beats in each bar

3. $\frac{7}{4}$ beats in each bar

4. $\frac{9}{4}$ beats in each bar

5. $\frac{5}{1}$ beats in each bar

6. $\frac{6}{2}$ beats in each bar

7. $\frac{3}{8}$ beats in each bar

8. $\frac{13}{4}$ beats in each bar

9. $\frac{4}{1}$ beats in each bar

10. $\frac{5}{8}$ beats in each bar

THINK /25

Explain how many beats there are in these time signatures: (Use font size 12)

5
8

7
4

9
8

$\frac{2}{4}$ The bottom number tells what kind of note gets one beat.


A 4 on the bottom indicates that the quarter note (♩) gets one beat.

A 2 on the bottom indicates that the half note (♭) gets one beat.

An 8 on the bottom indicates that the eighth note (♪) gets one beat, or one pulse.

A 16 on the bottom indicates that the sixteenth note (♩♩) gets one beat, or one pulse.

B. In the examples below, tell what kind of note gets one beat and draw the note. The first example is done for you.

$\frac{3}{8}$ A(n) eighth note  gets one beat.

1. $\frac{2}{16}$ The note gets one beat.

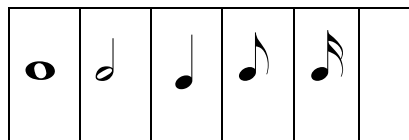
2. $\frac{4}{4}$ The note gets one beat.

3. $\frac{2}{2}$ The note gets one beat.

4. $\frac{5}{4}$ The note gets one beat.

5. $\frac{3}{2}$ The note gets one beat.

6. $\frac{4}{1}$ The note gets one beat.



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If you cannot see notes here find your Own on the internet to copy and paste.