

# e-z theory: Rhythm

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## What is a rhythm?

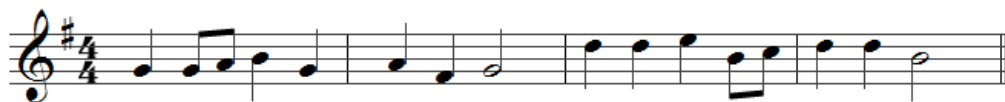
When we play a piece of music, we use **rhythm** to make it interesting and to give the music a sense of movement.

Look at the examples below:



Perhaps you can play this on your instrument or sing it.

Now we are going to look at the same melody, but this time we are going to change the rhythm slightly.



Can you describe the differences? (Hint: are only two.) Write on the lines below in which bars the differences happen and what they are.

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Play or sing the melody again. Which do you think is more interesting?

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If you said the second one, you would probably be right, since we are using not only **crotchets** and **minims**, but **quavers** too.

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## How do I use rhythm?

This is a difficult question to answer. The reason for this is that rhythm can help to give the music a feel that the composer wants.

For example, the following rhythm is in minims and semibreves.



Play it on your instrument and describe what sort of feeling you think it gives the music?

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Now, if we write out a very similar melody, using crotchets and quavers as well, we get a very different effect:



You might want to play or sing this on your instrument at the same speed as the first, or have your teacher play it to you. You can see that although we have a similar shape to both melodies, the second one has more movement and has a less heavy feel.

In the next sheet, we are going to practise writing some rhythms of our own.

