

# Viva Voce

## Cracking the Code: Symbols, Signs & Terms

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# Viva Voce

## *Cracking the Code: Definitions of Signs, Symbols & Terms*



flat sign – lowers pitch of a note by ½ step



whole note -- equals 4 quarter note beats



treble clef sign



half rest – equals 2 beats



repeat signs



eighth notes -- each equals ½ beat



bass clef sign



*crescendo* – gradually getting louder



quarter rest – equals one quarter note beat



half note – equals 2 quarter notes



sharp sign – raises pitch of a note by ½ step



eighth rest – equals ½ beat



whole rest -- equals 4 quarter note beats



accent– give the note indicated more emphasis



*staccato* – short and detached



*legato* – smooth and connected

***p***

*piano* –quiet

***f***

*forte* – loud

***pp***

*pianissimo* – very quiet

***mf***

*mezzo forte* – moderately (medium) loud

***ff***

*fortissimo* – very loud

***mp***


*mezzo piano* – moderately (medium) quiet



*diminuendo* – gradually getting quieter



staff (five lines)

DS  (*dal segno*)

repeat a specific section of the composition  
marked by the sign



*fermata* – sustain the note



sixteenth notes -- each equals  $\frac{1}{4}$  beat



*coda* – closing (end) section of a composition



natural sign – cancels  $b$  or  $\sharp$

DC (*da capo*)

return to the beginning of the composition



dotted half note – 3 quarter note beats



quarter note – 1 beat in  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{4}{4}$  time



dotted quarter note – 1 &  $\frac{1}{2}$  quarter note beats



sixteenth rest – equals  $\frac{1}{4}$  beat

*rall.*

*rallentando* – getting slower

*rit.*

*ritardando* – getting slower

*accel.*

*accelerando* – getting faster

*andante*

at a walking tempo

*allegro*

quick, cheerful

*allegretto*

a quick tempo, between *moderato* and *allegro*

*moderato*

at a moderate tempo

*largo*

slow

time signature

numbers at the beginning of a composition  
indicating the meter of the music;  
upper number = number of beats/bar;  
lower number = type of note that  
receives 1 beat

#### Time Signatures That Should Be Identified Easily

4/4	3/4	2/4	5/4	(4, 3, 2 or 5 quarter note beats per bar)
2/2	3/2	4/2	5/2	(2, 3, 4 or 5 half note beats per bar)
3/8	6/8	9/8	12/8	(3, 6, 8 or 12 eighth note beats per bar)

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## Cracking the Code: Review Game #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩



2. Circle the note that equals ♩. + ♩



3. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩



4. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩



5. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩



6. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩



7. Circle the note that equals ♩. + ♩ + ♩. + ♩



8. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩



9. Circle the note that equals ♩ + ♩ + ♩ + ♩. + ♩



10. Circle the note that equals ♩. + ♩ + ♩ + ♩.



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## Cracking the Code: Review Game #2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Circle the sign that means to lower the pitch of the note by a half step.



2. Circle the sign that means to raise the pitch of the note by a half step.



3. Circle the rest that equals 4 quarter note beats – a whole rest.



4. Circle the rest that equals 2 quarter note beats – a half rest.



5. Circle the rest that equals 1 quarter note beat – a quarter rest.



6. Circle the sign that indicates *crescendo* – gradually getting louder.



7. Circle the sign that indicates *diminuendo* – gradually getting softer.



8. Which is the softest of these three dynamic levels?

*p*

*pp*



*mp*

9. Which is the loudest of these three dynamic levels?

*f*

*mf*

*ff*

10. How many  (half notes) are in a  (whole note)?

Two

Three

Four

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## Cracking the Code: Review Game #3

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Match the term or symbol on the left with its definition on the right.



whole rest -- equals 4 quarter note beats



eighth notes -- each equals ½ beat



bass clef sign



*crescendo* – gradually getting louder



quarter rest – equals one quarter note beat



*pianissimo* – very quiet



sharp sign – raises pitch of a note by ½ step



*staccato* – short and detached



*fortissimo* – very loud



*diminuendo* – gradually getting quieter



*mezzo piano* – moderately (medium) quiet



*mezzo forte* – moderately (medium) loud



half rest – equals 2 beats



treble clef sign



repeat signs

***pp***

eighth rest – equals ½ beat

***mf***

flat sign – raise pitch of a note by ½ step

***ff***

accent– give the note indicated more emphasis

***mp***

whole note -- equals 4 beats




half note – equals 2 quarter notes

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## Cracking the Code: Review Game #4

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the definition of the term, symbol or sign.

DS  (*dal segno*)

\_\_\_\_\_ a specific section of the composition marked by the sign



*fermata* – \_\_\_\_\_ the note



sixteenth notes -- each equals \_\_\_\_\_ beat



*coda* – \_\_\_\_\_ section of a composition



\_\_\_\_\_ sign – cancels  $\flat$  or  $\sharp$

DC (*da capo*)

return to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the composition



dotted half note – \_\_\_\_\_ quarter note beats



quarter note – \_\_\_\_\_ beat in 3/4 or 4/4 time



dotted quarter note – \_\_\_\_\_ quarter note beats



sixteenth rest – equals \_\_\_\_\_ beat

*rall.*

*rallentando* – getting \_\_\_\_\_

*rit.*

*ritardando* – getting \_\_\_\_\_

*accel.*

*accelerando* – getting \_\_\_\_\_

*andante*

at a \_\_\_\_\_ tempo

*allegro*

\_\_\_\_\_, cheerful

*allegretto*

a quick tempo, between *moderato* and \_\_\_\_\_

*moderato*

at a \_\_\_\_\_ tempo

*largo*

\_\_\_\_\_

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## *Cracking the Code: Review Game #5*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the definitions of the following time signatures.

**time signature:** numbers at the beginning of a composition indicating the meter of the music

the upper number = number of beats/bar

the lower number = type of note that receives 1 beat

4/4 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

2/2 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

6/8 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

3/4 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

5/2 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

9/8 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

2/4 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

4/2 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

3/8 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

5/4 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

12/8 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat

3/2 \_\_\_\_\_ beats/bar; \_\_\_\_\_ note receives 1 beat