

CONCEPT	LEVEL	DEFINITION
<a href="#">A cappella</a>	Nat 5	Unaccompanied choral singing.
<a href="#">A tempo</a>	Nat 4	The music returns to the main tempo (speed) after there has been a change.
<a href="#">AB</a>	Nat 5	Two-part form - music in two sections: A then B. These sections may be repeated.
<a href="#">ABA</a>	Nat 4	Three-part form – music in three sections: section A, then B, then back to A.
<a href="#">Accelerando</a>	Nat 4	The tempo (speed) of the music gradually becomes faster.
<a href="#">Accented</a>	Nat 3	Accented notes are notes which sound louder than others.
<a href="#">Acciaccatura</a>	Higher	An ornament which sounds like a crushed note played very quickly on the beat or just before it.
<a href="#">Accidental</a>	Nat 5	A sign added to a note to change the pitch.
<a href="#">Accompanied</a>	Nat 3	Other instrument(s) or voice(s) supports the main melody.
<a href="#">Accordion</a>	Nat 3	An instrument with a keyboard played with the right hand and buttons (which play chords) pressed by the left hand.
<a href="#">Acoustic guitar</a>	Nat 3	The acoustic guitar is a stringed instrument that is played by plucking or strumming the strings with fingers, or using a plectrum.
<a href="#">Adagio</a>	Nat 3	A slow tempo (speed).
<a href="#">Added 6th (Higher)</a>	Higher	This describes a note 'added' to the familiar chord structure (root, 3rd and 5th).
<a href="#">African music</a>	Nat 4	Much African music features voices and/or African drums.
<a href="#">Alberti bass</a>	Nat 5	Broken chords played by the left hand outlining harmonies whilst the right hand plays the melody.
<a href="#">Allegro</a>	Nat 3	A fast tempo (speed).
<a href="#">Alto</a>	Nat 4	The lowest female voice.
<a href="#">Anacrusis</a>	Nat 4	The notes which appear before the first strong beat of a musical phrase, particularly at the start of a piece.
<a href="#">Andante</a>	Nat 4	A tempo at a walking speed.
<a href="#">Answer</a>	Nat 3	A short musical phrase that follows on from a 'question' phrase.
<a href="#">Answer</a>	Adv Higher	In a fugue, after the subject is played, the same tune appears in another voice or part in the dominant (a 5th higher or a 4th lower). This is called the answer.
<a href="#">Anthem</a>	Adv Higher	Short sacred choral piece sung in English. Sometimes sung by a choir unaccompanied and sometimes accompanied by organ, featuring solo parts.
<a href="#">Antiphonal</a>	Adv Higher	Dialogue between voices or instruments - one group of voices or instruments answers the other.
<a href="#">Appoggiatura</a>	Adv Higher	An ornament which sounds like a leaning note, takes half the value of the main note which follows it or two-thirds if the main note is dotted.
<a href="#">Arco</a>	Nat 5	Instruction given to string players to use a bow.
<a href="#">Aria</a>	Nat 5	A solo song sung in an operatic style, in an opera, oratorio or cantata, with orchestral accompaniment.
<a href="#">Arpeggio</a>	Nat 4	Notes of a chord played one after the other.
<a href="#">Ascending</a>	Nat 3	Ascending notes rise in pitch.
<a href="#">Atonal</a>	Nat 5	Atonal music has no feeling of key, major or minor. It is very dissonant and lacks a 'nice' melody and accompaniment.

CONCEPT	LEVEL	DEFINITION
<a href="#">Augmentation</a>	Higher	A passage of music where the length of the notes used are doubled; for example, where a quaver is replaced by a crotchet.
<a href="#">Augmented triad</a>	Adv Higher	This chord is formed by a major triad in which the 5th degree is raised by a semitone.
<a href="#">Ayre/Air</a>	Adv Higher	Song or simple melody, sometimes the title of a movement of a suite.
<a href="#">Backing vocals</a>	Nat 4	Singers who support the lead singer(s), usually by singing in harmony in the background.
<a href="#">Bagpipes</a>	Nat 3	A musical instrument having a flexible bag inflated either by a tube with valves or by bellows, a double-reed melody pipe, and from one to four drone pipes.
<a href="#">Ballett</a>	Adv Higher	A type of madrigal in strophic form which was originally danced to.
<a href="#">Baritone</a>	Nat 5	A male voice whose range lies between that of bass and tenor.
<a href="#">Baroque</a>	Nat 4	The name given to a style of music composed during the period 1600-1750 approximately.
<a href="#">Bass</a>	Nat 4	The lowest male voice.
<a href="#">Bass drum</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the percussion family.
<a href="#">Bass guitar</a>	Nat 4	The bass guitar is pitched lower than a guitar. It is an electric string instrument and has only four strings, two fewer than an electric guitar.
<a href="#">Basso continuo</a>	Higher	Basso continuo is a form of musical accompaniment used in the Baroque period. It means 'continuous bass'.
<a href="#">Bassoon</a>	Nat 5	This instrument belongs to the woodwind family.
<a href="#">Beat</a>	Nat 3	The basic pulse you hear in music.
<a href="#">Binary</a>	Nat 5	A form in which the music is made up of two different sections labelled A and B.
<a href="#">Blowing</a>	Nat 3	The sound produced by blowing into or across the mouthpiece of the instrument, eg brass, woodwind and recorders.
<a href="#">Blues</a>	Nat 3	Blues started as Black American folk music, developing from spirituals and work songs.
<a href="#">Bodhran</a>	Nat 5	An Irish wooden drum, held in one hand and played with a wooden beater.
<a href="#">Bongo drums</a>	Nat 5	Fairly high-pitched drums, joined in pairs and usually played with fingers and palms.
<a href="#">Bothy ballad</a>	Nat 5	A folk song, usually with many verses, from north-east Scotland.
<a href="#">Bowing</a>	Nat 3	The sound produced by drawing the bow across the strings of a stringed instrument, eg violin or cello.
<a href="#">Brass</a>	Nat 3	A family of instruments made from metal with a mouthpiece, eg trumpet and euphonium.
<a href="#">Brass band</a>	Nat 4	A band of brass instruments and percussion.
<a href="#">Bridge</a>	Adv Higher	A link between two themes.
<a href="#">Broken chord</a>	Nat 4	In a broken chord, the notes of a chord are played separately.
<a href="#">Cadence</a>	Nat 5	The end of a musical phrase.
<a href="#">Cadenza</a>	Nat 4	A passage of music which allows soloists to display their technical ability in singing or playing an instrument.
<a href="#">Canon</a>	Nat 4	Strict imitation. Once one part starts to play or sing a melody, another part enters shortly afterwards with exactly the same melody.
<a href="#">Castanets</a>	Nat 5	A percussion instrument popular in Spanish music.

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<a href="#">Cello</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the string family and is slightly smaller and slightly higher in pitch than a double bass.
<a href="#">Celtic rock</a>	Nat 5	A style of music that mixes Celtic folk music and rock together.
<a href="#">Chamber music</a>	Higher	Chamber music is a form of classical music that is composed for a small group of instruments - traditionally a group that could fit in a palace chamber.
<a href="#">Change of key</a>	Nat 4	A move from one key to another.
<a href="#">Choir</a>	Nat 3	A group of singers who perform together.
<a href="#">Chorale</a>	Adv Higher	A German hymn tune, written in four parts for soprano, contralto (alto), tenor and bass.
<a href="#">Chord</a>	Nat 3	Two or more notes sounding together.
<a href="#">Chord II and 1st inversion (major key only)</a>	Adv Higher	In a major key, chord number two tends to be a minor chord.
<a href="#">Chords I, IV, V and VI in major and minor keys</a>	Adv Higher	In a major key, it is normal for chords I, IV and V to be major chords. Chord VI is normally a minor chord.
<a href="#">Chord progressions</a>	Nat 4	A series of related chords built on the first, fourth and fifth notes of a major or minor scale.
<a href="#">Chord progressions</a>	Nat 5	Different progressions using the chords built on the 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th notes of a major or minor scale.
<a href="#">Chorus</a>	Nat 5	A group of singers, the music written for them or the refrain between verses of a song.
<a href="#">Chromatic</a>	Nat 5	Notes which move by the interval of a semitone.
<a href="#">Clarinet</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the woodwind family. It uses a single reed, which is attached to a plastic mouthpiece.
<a href="#">Clarsach</a>	Nat 5	A small Scottish harp, used in folk music. Clarsach is Gaelic for harp.
<a href="#">Classical</a>	Nat 5	A term used to describe/refer to music composed during the period 1750-1810 approximately; the era of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.
<a href="#">Cluster</a>	Nat 5	A term used to describe a group of notes, which clash, played together.
<a href="#">Coda</a>	Nat 5	A passage at the end of a piece of music which rounds it off effectively.
<a href="#">Coloratura</a>	Higher	Term for florid vocal singing involving scales, runs and ornaments where there are a number of notes sung to the one syllable.
<a href="#">Compound time</a>	Nat 4	The beat is divided into groups of three.
<a href="#">Compound time groupings</a>	Nat 5	The beat is a dotted note which divides into three, eg 6/8 = two dotted crotchet beats in a bar and each beat can be divided into three quavers.
<a href="#">Con sordino - muted</a>	Nat 5	Using a mute changes the sound normally produced on an instrument.
<a href="#">Concertino</a>	Higher	In a concerto grosso this is the name given to the small, solo group of instrumentalists as opposed to the main group, the ripieno.
<a href="#">Concerto</a>	Nat 4	A work for solo instrument and orchestra, eg a flute concerto is written for flute and orchestra.
<a href="#">Concerto grosso</a>	Higher	A concerto grosso is an important form of music developed throughout the baroque period comprising three main elements; concertino, ripieno and basso continuo.
<a href="#">Consort</a>	Adv Higher	Dance-like in style; this music could be played by solo instruments such as lutes, harpsichords or virginals, by small groups of instruments of the same family or a group of varied instruments from different families.
<a href="#">Contemporary jazz</a>	Adv Higher	Contemporary jazz is an umbrella term for all kinds of jazz music being played now - as well as jazz music of the 80s, 90s, 00s & 10s.
<a href="#">Contrapuntal</a>	Nat 5	Texture in which each of two or more parts has independent melodic interest; similar in meaning to polyphonic.
<a href="#">Contrary motion</a>	Nat 5	Two parts which move in opposite directions, eg as one part ascends the other part descends.

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<a href="#">Counter melody</a>	Nat 5	A melody played against the main melody.
<a href="#">Countersubject</a>	Adv Higher	In a fugue, after the subject or answer is played, the continuation of that same instrument or voice is called the countersubject.
<a href="#">Countertenor</a>	Adv Higher	A male adult voice whose range is higher than a tenor's.
<a href="#">Crescendo</a>	Nat 3	The music gradually becomes louder.
<a href="#">Cross rhythm</a>	Nat 5	Contrasting rhythms played at the same time or played with unusual emphasis on notes.
<a href="#">Crotchet</a>	Nat 3	A note that lasts for 1 beat.
<a href="#">Cymbals</a>	Nat 4	A percussion instrument, round in shape and made of metal.
<a href="#">Da capo aria</a>	Higher	The da capo aria is a musical form that was prevalent in the baroque era. It is sung by a soloist with the accompaniment of instruments, often a small orchestra.
<a href="#">Descant (voice)</a>	Nat 5	A counter melody which accompanies and is sung above the main melody.
<a href="#">Descending</a>	Nat 3	Descending notes fall in pitch.
<a href="#">Diminished 7th</a>	Higher	A diminished 7th chord consists of four notes built one on top of the other.
<a href="#">Diminuendo</a>	Nat 3	The music gradually becomes quieter.
<a href="#">Diminution</a>	Higher	A passage of music in which the length of the notes used are halved; where, for example, a crotchet would be replaced by a quaver.
<a href="#">Discord</a>	Nat 3	A chord in which certain notes clash. In the 20th century, many composers used discords in their music.
<a href="#">Distortion</a>	Nat 4	An electronic effect used in rock music to colour the sound of an electric guitar. It gives a 'fuzzy' sound rather than the usual clean sound.
<a href="#">Dominant 7th</a>	Higher	Chord built on the dominant (5th) note of a key which adds the 7th note above its root.
<a href="#">Dotted crotchet</a>	Nat 5	A note that last for 1½ beats.
<a href="#">Dotted minim</a>	Nat 3	A note that last for 3 beats.
<a href="#">Dotted quaver</a>	Nat 5	A note that last for ¾ beats.
<a href="#">Dotted rhythm</a>	Nat 4	A long note followed by a shorter one or a short note followed by a longer one, as in a Scotch snap.
<a href="#">Double bass</a>	Nat 4	The largest and lowest instrument of the string family.
<a href="#">Drone</a>	Nat 4	One note held on or repeated in the bass.
<a href="#">Drum fill</a>	Nat 3	A rhythmic decoration played on a drum kit.
<a href="#">Drum kit</a>	Nat 3	A set of drums and cymbals often used in rock music and pop music.
<a href="#">Electric guitar</a>	Nat 3	A guitar which requires an electric amplifier to produce sound.
<a href="#">Electronic dance music</a>	Adv Higher	Electronic dance music is normally heard in clubs where the DJ combines tracks electronically into one smooth mix. It can encompass music of different genres including house music, dubstep, drum and bass.
<a href="#">Episode</a>	Nat 5	A passage of music linking two musical themes, such as in Rondo Form
<a href="#">Exposition</a>	Higher	This describes the first hearing of the 'theme' and is normally associated with compositions structured in sonata form or fugue.
<a href="#">Faster</a>	Nat 3	The tempo (speed) increases.

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<a href="#">Fiddle</a>	Nat 3	Another name for the violin, used in Scottish folk music.
<a href="#">Flute</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the woodwind family, although it is made of metal. It differs from other woodwind instruments as it does not have a reed.
<a href="#">Flutter tonguing</a>	Nat 5	Rolling your 'r's' whilst playing a brass or woodwind instrument.
<a href="#">Folk groups</a>	Nat 3	A group of two or more musicians who perform music in a traditional style, usually accompanied by guitars.
<a href="#">Forte</a>	Nat 3	Forte means loud volume.
<a href="#">Fortissimo</a>	Nat 5	This means very loud volume.
<a href="#">French horn</a>	Nat 5	This instrument belongs to the brass family and is basically four metres of tubing curled around, with a bell-shaped opening on one end and a mouthpiece in the other.
<a href="#">Fugue</a>	Adv Higher	A contrapuntal piece based on a theme (subject) announced in one voice part alone, then imitated by other voices in close succession.
<a href="#">Gaelic psalms</a>	Nat 5	Psalms (hymns) which were sung in Gaelic, unaccompanied.
<a href="#">Galliard</a>	Adv Higher	A Renaissance court dance which follows the pavan.
<a href="#">Glissando</a>	Nat 5	Sliding from one note to another, taking in all the notes in between where possible.
<a href="#">Glockenspiel</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the percussion family. The metal bars are laid out in a similar pattern to the piano and are played with beaters.
<a href="#">Gospel</a>	Nat 5	Music written with religious lyrics, often in praise or thanksgiving to God.
<a href="#">Grace note</a>	Nat 5	A type of ornament played as a quick, crushed note before the main note of a melody.
<a href="#">Ground bass</a>	Nat 5	A theme in the bass which is repeated many times while the upper parts are varied.
<a href="#">Grouped semiquavers</a>	Nat 4	A group of semiquavers which are joined together.
<a href="#">Güiro</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the percussion family. It is made of wood that has been hollowed out and has ridges cut into the outer surface. A wooden stick is scraped along the ridges to produce the sound.
<a href="#">Harmonic minor scale</a>	Higher	The notes of the harmonic minor scale are the same as the natural minor except that the seventh degree is raised by one semitone, making an augmented second between the sixth and seventh degrees.
<a href="#">Harmonics</a>	Higher	The high eerie sounds produced on a bowed string instrument by lightly touching the string at certain points.
<a href="#">Harmony</a>	Nat 3	The sound of two or more notes made at the same time.
<a href="#">Harp</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the string family. It is usually about 1.8 metres high, weighs 36kg and has 47 strings.
<a href="#">Harpsichord</a>	Nat 4	A keyboard instrument which looks like a small grand piano. The keys are laid out in the same way as on a piano but are opposite in colour – the majority of the keys are black, and the raised ones are white.
<a href="#">Hemiola</a>	Adv Higher	A rhythmic device giving the impression of a piece of music changing from duple (2) to triple (3) time, or vice versa.
<a href="#">Hi hat cymbals</a>	Nat 5	Used as part of a drumkit, they consist of two cymbals (one upside-down) that are hit with a stick or brush, and opened/closed with a foot pedal.
<a href="#">Homophonic</a>	Nat 5	Texture where you hear melody with accompaniment or where all the parts play a similar rhythm at the same time.
<a href="#">Imitation</a>	Nat 4	Where the melody is immediately copied in another part.
<a href="#">Imperfect cadence</a>	Nat 5	A cadence consists of two chords at the end of a phrase. In an imperfect cadence the last chord is chord V (the dominant) creating an unfinished effect.
<a href="#">Impressionist</a>	Higher	Music written in the impressionist style mirrors the style of painting by artists such as Claude Monet, where edges between objects are often blurred.
<a href="#">Improvisation</a>	Nat 3	The performer makes up music during the actual performance, they don't have the melody written down to help, although there may be suggested chords as a guide.

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<a href="#">Indian music</a>	Nat 5	Music from India which uses instruments such as the sitar and tabla.
<a href="#">Interrupted cadence</a>	Higher	A cadence is formed by two chords at the end of a phrase.
<a href="#">Interval</a>	Higher	The distance in pitch between two notes.
<a href="#">Inversion</a>	Adv Higher	When a musical shape is mirrored; an inverted chord is formed when a note other than the root is in the bass.
<a href="#">Inverted pedal</a>	Nat 5	A note which is held on or repeated continuously at a high pitch.
<a href="#">Irregular time signatures</a>	Higher	Irregular time signatures occur when the music does not naturally fall into equal groupings.
<a href="#">Jazz</a>	Nat 3	At first this was music created by black Americans in the early 20th century.
<a href="#">Jazz funk</a>	Higher	Jazz funk is a sub-genre of jazz. It is a style that emerged during the 1970s.
<a href="#">Jig</a>	Nat 4	A fast dance in compound time. Usually 2 beats in a bar, with each beat dividing into 3 quavers.
<a href="#">Latin American music</a>	Nat 3	Dance music from South America.
<a href="#">Leap/leaping</a>	Nat 3	Jumping between notes which are not next to each other.
<a href="#">Legato</a>	Nat 3	The notes are played or sung smoothly.
<a href="#">Leitmotiv</a>	Adv Higher	A theme occurring throughout a work which represents a person, an event or an idea, etc.
<a href="#">Lied</a>	Higher	This term (the German word for song) refers to songs for solo voice, accompanied by piano.
<a href="#">Lines and spaces of the treble clef</a>	Nat 3	The system for writing music uses five lines, each with a different letter name - find out more about the lines and spaces.
<a href="#">Madrigal</a>	Adv Higher	A non-religious work, polyphonic in style, using imitation.
<a href="#">Major</a>	Nat 4	The music sounds in a major key – often described as having a cheery, happy feel to it.
<a href="#">March</a>	Nat 3	Music with a strong steady pulse with two or four beats in a bar.
<a href="#">Mass</a>	Higher	The Mass is a sacred choral work traditionally using the five main sections of the Roman Catholic, Western Orthodox, Anglican or Lutheran Church liturgy.
<a href="#">Melismatic</a>	Nat 5	Several notes sung to one syllable.
<a href="#">Melodic minor scale</a>	Higher	The melodic minor scale consists of different notes when ascending/descending.
<a href="#">Mezzo forte</a>	Nat 4	Mezzo forte stands for fairly loud volume.
<a href="#">Mezzo piano</a>	Nat 4	Mezzo piano stands for 'fairly quiet volume'.
<a href="#">Mezzo soprano</a>	Nat 5	A female singer whose voice range lies between that of a soprano and an alto.
<a href="#">Middle eight</a>	Nat 4	In popular music, a section which provides a contrast to the opening section. It is often eight bars long.
<a href="#">Minim</a>	Nat 3	A note that lasts for 2 beats.
<a href="#">Minimalist</a>	Nat 5	A development in the second half of the 20th century based on simple rhythmic and melodic figures which are constantly repeated with very slight changes each time.
<a href="#">Minor</a>	Nat 4	The music sounds in a minor key, often described as having a sadder feel than major.
<a href="#">Mode/modal</a>	Higher	Term used to describe music based on a mode. Like a scale, modes can be built on any note.

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<a href="#">Moderato</a>	Nat 5	A medium tempo (speed).
<a href="#">Modulation</a>	Nat 5	A change of key.
<a href="#">Mordent</a>	Higher	An ornament which sounds the main note, the note above and then the main note again.
<a href="#">Motet</a>	Adv Higher	A sacred choral work with Latin text and polyphonic texture, usually sung a cappella.
<a href="#">Mouth music</a>	Nat 4	Unaccompanied songs with Gaelic or nonsense words, normally sung for ceilidh dances.
<a href="#">Musical</a>	Nat 3	A musical play which has speaking, singing and dancing and is performed on a stage.
<a href="#">Musique concrete</a>	Higher	Recorded natural sounds which are transformed using simple editing techniques such as cutting and reassembling, playing backwards, slowing down and speeding up.
<a href="#">Muted</a>	Nat 4	Using a device which reduces the volume or alters the sound of an instrument.
<a href="#">Nationalist</a>	Adv Higher	Music which incorporates elements of folk music of the composer's country.
<a href="#">Neo-classical</a>	Adv Higher	From about 1929, composers reacted against Romanticism returning to the structures and styles of earlier periods, combined with dissonant, tonal and even atonal harmonies.
<a href="#">Obligato</a>	Higher	A prominent solo instrument part in a piece of vocal music.
<a href="#">Oboe</a>	Nat 5	This instrument belongs to the woodwind family. It uses a double reed which is placed between the lips and the air travels between the two reeds into the instrument.
<a href="#">Octave</a>	Nat 3	The distance of 8 notes eg from C up to C.
<a href="#">Off the beat</a>	Nat 3	Notes played on the weaker beats, eg beats 2 and 4 in a 4/4 bar.
<a href="#">On the beat</a>	Nat 3	Notes played on the stronger beats, eg beats 1 and 3 in a 4/4 bar.
<a href="#">Opera</a>	Nat 4	A drama set to music with soloists, chorus, acting, and orchestral accompaniment.
<a href="#">Oratorio</a>	Higher	Usually a story from the Bible set to music for soloists, chorus and orchestra.
<a href="#">Orchestra</a>	Nat 3	There are four main sections to an orchestra: strings, woodwind, brass and percussion.
<a href="#">Organ</a>	Nat 3	A keyboard instrument usually found in churches. It usually has more than one keyboard, plus pedals that are played with the feet.
<a href="#">Ornament</a>	Nat 4	An ornament decorates a melody by adding extra notes. Ornaments are often short and add melodic and rhythmic interest.
<a href="#">Ostinato</a>	Nat 3	A short musical pattern repeated many times.
<a href="#">Paired quaver</a>	Nat 4	Two quavers (1/2 beat notes) joined together.
<a href="#">Pan pipes</a>	Nat 4	Pipes which are graded in size and are bound together. The sound is made by blowing across the top of the pipes.
<a href="#">Passacaglia</a>	Higher	Variations over a ground bass.
<a href="#">Pause</a>	Nat 3	A note or rest that is held longer than written. The pause sign (looks like an eye and an eyebrow) is written above the note or rest that is to be held as a pause.
<a href="#">Pavan</a>	Adv Higher	A Renaissance court dance linked with the galliard.
<a href="#">Pedal</a>	Nat 4	Short for pedal point. A note which is sustained, or repeated continuously, in the bass beneath changing harmonies.
<a href="#">Pentatonic</a>	Nat 4	Any five-note scale. In practice, the most common one is that on which much folk music is based, particularly Scottish and Celtic.
<a href="#">Percussion</a>	Nat 3	Instruments that are played by hitting, striking, shaking or scraping.

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<a href="#">Perfect cadence</a>	Nat 5	A cadence consists of two chords at the end of a phrase. A perfect cadence is the dominant to tonic chords (V-I).
<a href="#">Pianissimo</a>	Nat 5	Pianissimo is an indication that the music should be played very softly.
<a href="#">Piano (dynamics)</a>	Nat 3	Quiet volume, abbreviated to 'p'.
<a href="#">Piano (instrument)</a>	Nat 3	A keyboard instrument which produces sounds by hammers hitting strings.
<a href="#">Piano trio</a>	Adv Higher	A piano trio is a chamber music ensemble comprising of three instruments; the most common form comprises of a piano, violin and cello.
<a href="#">Pibroch</a>	Nat 5	Music for solo bagpipe, in theme and variation form, and with grace notes.
<a href="#">Piccolo</a>	Nat 5	A half-size flute which plays an octave higher than the standard flute.
<a href="#">Pitch bend</a>	Nat 5	Changing the pitch of a note, for example by pushing a guitar string upwards.
<a href="#">Pizzicato</a>	Nat 5	Abbreviation pizz. An instruction given to string players to pluck the strings instead of using the bow.
<a href="#">Plagal cadence</a>	Higher	A plagal cadence is created by a move from the subdominant to a tonic chord (IV-I).
<a href="#">Plainchant</a>	Higher	Gregorian chant or plainsong was the mainstay of music in the early church.
<a href="#">Plucking</a>	Nat 3	Sound made when you pluck the strings of a stringed instrument with a finger or fingers.
<a href="#">Polyphonic</a>	Nat 5	Texture which consists of two or more melodic lines, possibly of equal importance, which weave independently of each other.
<a href="#">Polytonality/bitonality</a>	Adv Higher	The use of two (bitonality) or more keys (polytonality) played or sung at the same time.
<a href="#">Pop</a>	Nat 3	A style of popular music played by a group of musicians.
<a href="#">Pulse</a>	Nat 3	The basic beat in music. The pulse may be in groups of two, three or four with a stress on the first in each group.
<a href="#">Quaver</a>	Nat 4	A note that lasts half a beat.
<a href="#">Question</a>	Nat 3	An opening phrase which is often followed by an answer.
<a href="#">Ragtime</a>	Nat 4	A style of dance music which became popular at the end of the 19th century and which helped to influence jazz.
<a href="#">Rallentando</a>	Nat 4	The tempo (speed) of the music gradually slows down.
<a href="#">Rapping</a>	Nat 4	Rhyming lyrics that are spoken and performed in time to a beat. Rapping is popular in hip-hop music.
<a href="#">Recitative</a>	Higher	A type of vocal writing where the music follows the rhythm of speech, used in operas and oratorios.
<a href="#">Recorder</a>	Nat 4	There are four main types of recorder: descant, treble, tenor and bass.
<a href="#">Reel</a>	Nat 3	A Scottish dance written in simple time with two or four beats in a bar.
<a href="#">Reggae</a>	Nat 4	Reggae music was developed in the late 1960s in Jamaica. It has quite a distinctive sound and has the characteristic of strong accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of the bar.
<a href="#">Relative major/minor</a>	Higher	
<a href="#">Renaissance</a>	Adv Higher	Renaissance means 'rebirth' and marks a period in history where there was a resurgence of interest in music based on the ideas of the ancient Greeks and Romans.
<a href="#">Repeat sign</a>	Nat 4	A sign which indicates a section of music should be repeated.
<a href="#">Repetition</a>	Nat 3	An exact repeat of a musical idea.



CONCEPT	LEVEL	DEFINITION
<a href="#">Retrograde</a>	Adv Higher	To go backwards; a melody or a section of music can be written or performed from the end to the beginning.
<a href="#">Reverb</a>	Nat 5	An electronic effect which can give the impression of different hall acoustics.
<a href="#">Riff</a>	Nat 3	A repeated phrase usually found in jazz and popular music.
<a href="#">Ripieno</a>	Higher	Ripieno is one of the elements of the Baroque Concerto Grosso. It describes the larger/main group of ensemble instruments.
<a href="#">Ritardando</a>	Nat 5	The music slows down.
<a href="#">Ritornello</a>	Higher	Ritornello is used to describe a theme which returns frequently throughout a piece of music, or a movement within a larger piece.
<a href="#">Rock</a>	Nat 3	A style of popular music with a heavy, driving beat. Usually features electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit.
<a href="#">Rock 'n' roll</a>	Nat 3	1950s American music which grew from the combined styles of jazz, blues, gospel and country.
<a href="#">Roll</a>	Nat 5	A very fast repetition of a note on a percussion instrument, eg on a snare drum or timpani.
<a href="#">Romantic</a>	Nat 4	In music, the period 1810-1900 approximately, which followed the Classical era.
<a href="#">Rondo</a>	Nat 5	A form where the first section (A) keeps returning, in between different sections – B, C etc.
<a href="#">Round</a>	Nat 3	Each part sings or plays the same melody, entering one after the other. When they reach the end they start again.
<a href="#">Rubato</a>	Nat 5	Translates as 'robbed time' which means the music will speed up and slow down in order to allow for expression, therefore there will not be a strict tempo maintained.
<a href="#">Saxophone</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the woodwind family. It uses a single reed which is attached to a plastic mouthpiece.
<a href="#">Scale</a>	Nat 4	A sequence of notes moving by step in an ascending or descending order.
<a href="#">Scat singing</a>	Nat 4	Nonsense words, syllables and sounds are improvised (made up) by the singer. Sometimes the singer is imitating the sounds of instruments.
<a href="#">Scotch snap</a>	Nat 4	A very short accented note before a longer note.
<a href="#">Scots ballad</a>	Nat 4	A Scottish song which tells a story. Examples of Scots ballads are 'Flower of Scotland' and 'Loch Lomond'.
<a href="#">Scottish</a>	Nat 3	Music of Scotland.
<a href="#">Scottish dance band</a>	Nat 3	A band which plays Scottish music for people to dance to.
<a href="#">Semibreve</a>	Nat 3	A note that lasts for four beats.
<a href="#">Semiquaver</a>	Nat 4	A note that lasts for a quarter (1/4) of a beat.
<a href="#">Semitone</a>	Nat 5	Half a tone, eg G to Ab on a keyboard. From one fret to another on a guitar.
<a href="#">Sequence</a>	Nat 3	A melodic phrase which is immediately repeated at a higher or lower pitch.
<a href="#">Serial</a>	Adv Higher	A 20th-century method of musical composition invented by Schoenberg in which the 12 notes of the Chromatic scale are organised into a series or tone row.
<a href="#">Sforzando</a>	Nat 5	A note played with a forced sudden accent.
<a href="#">Simple time</a>	Nat 4	The music has two, three or four beats in each bar, and each beat is a crotchet (1 beat note) and each beat can be divided into 2.
<a href="#">Sitar</a>	Nat 5	A plucked, stringed instrument from India. It's basically an Indian guitar – easy to remember because sitar rhymes with guitar.
<a href="#">Slower</a>	Nat 3	The tempo (speed) decreases.

CONCEPT	LEVEL	DEFINITION
<a href="#">Snare drum</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the percussion family and is played with sticks or brushes. This drum can act as two different instruments – a side drum and a snare drum.
<a href="#">Solo</a>	Nat 3	One instrument or voice. A prominent instrument or voice can be solo even when part of a larger ensemble.
<a href="#">Sonata</a>	Higher	Sonata can be exemplified in two ways, either as a composition for solo piano, or a composition for a solo instrument accompanied by piano.
<a href="#">Sonata form</a>	Higher	This term is used to describe the structure of the first movement of many sonatas, symphonies and often overtures.
<a href="#">Song cycle</a>	Adv Higher	A group of songs linked by a common theme or with a text written by the same author, usually accompanied by piano but sometimes by small ensembles or full orchestra.
<a href="#">Soprano</a>	Nat 4	The highest range of female voice.
<a href="#">Soul music</a>	Higher	Soul music developed in the southern states of America and grew in popularity throughout the 1960s. It was a combination of gospel, blues and country music, and its gritty sound reflected what was happening socially in America at that time.
<a href="#">Sprechgesang</a>	Adv Higher	A technique used in vocal music where the singer is required to use the voice in an expressive manner half-way between singing and speaking.
<a href="#">Staccato</a>	Nat 3	The notes are short and detached.
<a href="#">Steel band</a>	Nat 3	A West Indian band whose instruments are made out of oil drums called pans. The top of each drum is hammered into panels to make different pitches.
<a href="#">Step/stepwise</a>	Nat 3	Moving up or down between notes which are next to each other.
<a href="#">Strathspey</a>	Nat 4	A Scottish dance with four beats in a bar and usually featuring the Scotch snap.
<a href="#">Stretto</a>	Adv Higher	Where voices or instruments enter very quickly one after the other, as in fugue.
<a href="#">Striking</a>	Nat 3	The sound is produced by hitting the instrument.
<a href="#">String quartet</a>	Higher	A chamber music ensemble made up from two violins, one viola and one cello.
<a href="#">Strings</a>	Nat 3	The family of instruments which have strings. The sound is produced by dragging a bow across the strings or by plucking them with the fingers.
<a href="#">Strophic</a>	Nat 5	A song which has music repeated for verses/choruses, therefore the same music will be heard repeating throughout the song.
<a href="#">Strumming</a>	Nat 3	A finger, fingers or plectrum are drawn across the strings of an instrument, usually guitar.
<a href="#">Subject</a>	Higher	The main theme in a composition.
<a href="#">Subject</a>	Adv Higher	The main theme in a composition, the main themes in sonata form, or the main theme on which a fugue is based.
<a href="#">Suspension</a>	Adv Higher	This effect occurs when a note from one chord is held over to the next chord creating a discord, and is then resolved by moving one step to make a concord.
<a href="#">Swing</a>	Nat 4	A jazz style which started in the 1930s and was performed by a big band. The numbers and types of instruments in the big bands increased during this period, through the influence of swing.
<a href="#">Syllabic</a>	Nat 5	Vocal music where each syllable is given one note only.
<a href="#">Symphony</a>	Nat 5	A large work for orchestra, usually in four movements.
<a href="#">Syncopation</a>	Nat 4	Strongly accented notes playing off or against the beat. Syncopation occurs in all kinds of music.
<a href="#">Tabla</a>	Nat 5	Indian drums often used to accompany the sitar.
<a href="#">Tambourine</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the percussion family. A wooden or plastic frame has pairs of metal jingles attached and is mostly played by the hand striking or shaking the instrument.
<a href="#">Tenor</a>	Nat 4	A high-pitched, adult male voice.
<a href="#">Ternary</a>	Nat 4	A B A – 3 part form: Section A, followed by a B section which is a different melody, than a return to the A section.

CONCEPT	LEVEL	DEFINITION
<a href="#">Theme and variation</a>	Nat 4	The structure of a piece where the melody is heard (the theme), then returns several times with variations.
<a href="#">Through-composed</a>	Higher	A vocal/choral composition in which there is little or no repetition in the musical structure i.e. where the composition is not structured as verse/chorus.
<a href="#">Tierce de Picardie (Higher)</a>	Higher	The final chord of a piece of music in the minor key is changed to major.
<a href="#">Time changes</a>	Higher	The time signature specify how many beats are to be contained in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat.
<a href="#">Timpani</a>	Nat 4	A drum with skin stretched across a large bowl. It was traditionally made of copper, but is more commonly now made of fibreglass.
<a href="#">Tone</a>	Nat 5	The distance between two notes, equivalent to two semitones (for example, two frets on a guitar).
<a href="#">Tone row/note row</a>	Adv Higher	An arrangement of the 12 notes of the octave which forms the basis of a composition.
<a href="#">Tremolando</a>	Higher	Term for the rapid up-and-down movement of a bow on a stringed instrument creating an agitated, restless effect.
<a href="#">Triangle</a>	Nat 4	This is a piece of metal in the shape of a triangle, open at one corner, and struck with a metal beater. It is an untuned percussion instrument, as it cannot play a range of notes.
<a href="#">Tritone</a>	Adv Higher	Interval of an augmented 4th, eg C–F sharp or F–B. It is made up of three whole tones.
<a href="#">Trill</a>	Nat 5	Moving quickly and repeatedly between two notes which are a step apart.
<a href="#">Trombone</a>	Nat 4	This is the only brass instrument that has a slide instead of valves. Air vibrates through a player's lips, into a mouthpiece which is connected to the instrument.
<a href="#">Trumpet</a>	Nat 4	The trumpet is the smallest and highest brass instrument in the brass family. Air vibrates through a player's lips, into a mouthpiece which is connected to the instrument.
<a href="#">Tuba</a>	Nat 5	The tuba is the largest and lowest brass instrument in the brass family. Air vibrates through a player's lips, into a mouthpiece which is connected to the instrument.
<a href="#">Turn</a>	Adv Higher	Four notes which turn round the main note with the note above, the main note, the note below, and the main note again.
<a href="#">Unaccompanied</a>	Nat 3	There are no instruments playing in the background.
<a href="#">Unison</a>	Nat 3	Singing or playing the same notes at the same time.
<a href="#">Vamp</a>	Nat 4	A rhythmic accompaniment with a bass note played on the beat and a chord off the beat. Usually played on piano or guitar.
<a href="#">Verse and chorus</a>	Nat 4	A structure/ form popular in many songs. The music of the verse will repeat, often with different words, and between verses the chorus will normally repeat and features different music to the verse.
<a href="#">Viola</a>	Nat 5	This instrument belongs to the string family. It is slightly bigger and lower in pitch than the violin, but looks similar. It can be played with a bow.
<a href="#">Violin</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the string family. It is the smallest and highest pitched instrument in the string family. It can be played with a bow.
<a href="#">Voice</a>	Nat 3	The human instrument used to speak or sing.
<a href="#">Walking bass</a>	Nat 5	A bass line (low notes) often featured in a variety of jazz styles. It goes for a walk, up and down a pattern of notes, and is often played on a double bass.
<a href="#">Waltz</a>	Nat 3	A dance with three beats in a bar in simple time.
<a href="#">Waulking song</a>	Nat 5	A rhythmic song sung in Gaelic by the women in the Western Isles of Scotland while they waulked woolen cloth to soften and shrink it.
<a href="#">Whole-tone scale</a>	Nat 5	A scale containing no semitones but built entirely on whole tones.
<a href="#">Wind band</a>	Nat 4	A band with woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.
<a href="#">Woodwind</a>	Nat 3	Instruments which produce sounds by blowing across a hole, against an edge or through a single or double reed, eg flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe and bassoon. They need not be made of wood.
<a href="#">Xylophone</a>	Nat 4	This instrument belongs to the percussion family. The wooden bars are laid out in a similar pattern to the piano and are played with beaters.