

HALF & WHOLE STEPS

The distance between two notes is important to musicians and singers. This distance between notes is called an **interval**.

A **half step** interval is the **smallest distance from one note to the next** with no possible notes in between. The two notes are close neighbors.

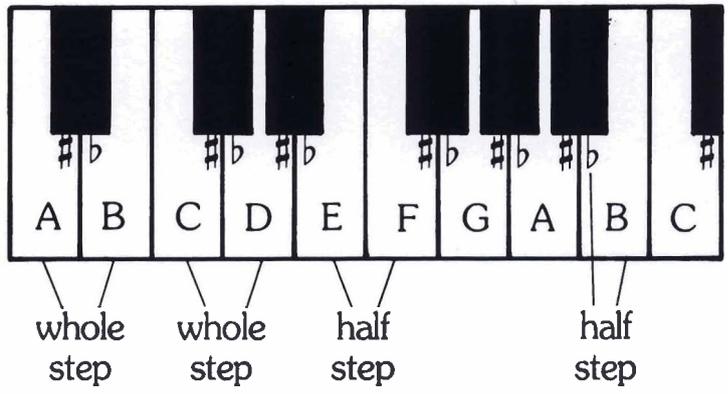
A **whole step** interval happens when there **is** room for one note between the two notes.

The piano keyboard is a good way to see half and whole steps. All notes are counted in intervals, including black and white keys. Black keys are sharp & flat notes.

Strategy:

1. Look carefully at the letter names on the piano keyboard.
2. Notice that the B & C, and E & F keys are next to each other with no black key between. These notes are automatically a half step apart.
3. Look carefully at the example of half and whole steps as shown with lines below the keyboard.
4. By looking at the keyboard, write the words "half step" or "whole step" to tell the distance between the two notes.

Example:



WRITE "whole step" or "half step:"

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| C to D _____ step | B to C _____ step |
| E to F _____ step | G# to G _____ step |
| D _b to D _____ step | D _b to D# _____ step |

CHECK-UP:

1. The distance between two notes is called an _____
2. A _____ has no room for a note in between.
3. A _____ does have room for a note in between.
4. Half steps automatically happen between _____ & _____ and between _____ & _____
5. A flat, natural and _____ sign can lower or raise notes a half step.