


Intervals at a glance

An interval is the distance between two notes. Intervals are named by their size (the number) and type (major, minor and so on).

How to identify intervals

- 1 Count the number of note names in the interval.

For example:  = C D E = 3 letter names, so C to E is a third.

- 2 Decide on the type of interval – for now you only need to think about major, minor and perfect (fourths, fifths and octaves only) – by working out the number of semitones. Fill in this table with the number of semitones in each interval. An octave is easy to spot because both notes have the same pitch name.

Type of interval	Semitones	Example	Type of interval	Semitones	Example
Minor second	1	C to D \flat	Perfect fifth		
Major second	2	C to D	Minor sixth		
Minor third			Major sixth		
Major third			Minor seventh		
Perfect fourth			Major seventh		

Augmented and diminished intervals

- If a major or perfect interval is made larger by one semitone, it becomes **augmented**.
- If a major interval is made smaller by one semitone it becomes minor.
- If a minor or perfect interval becomes smaller by one semitone it becomes **diminished**.



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