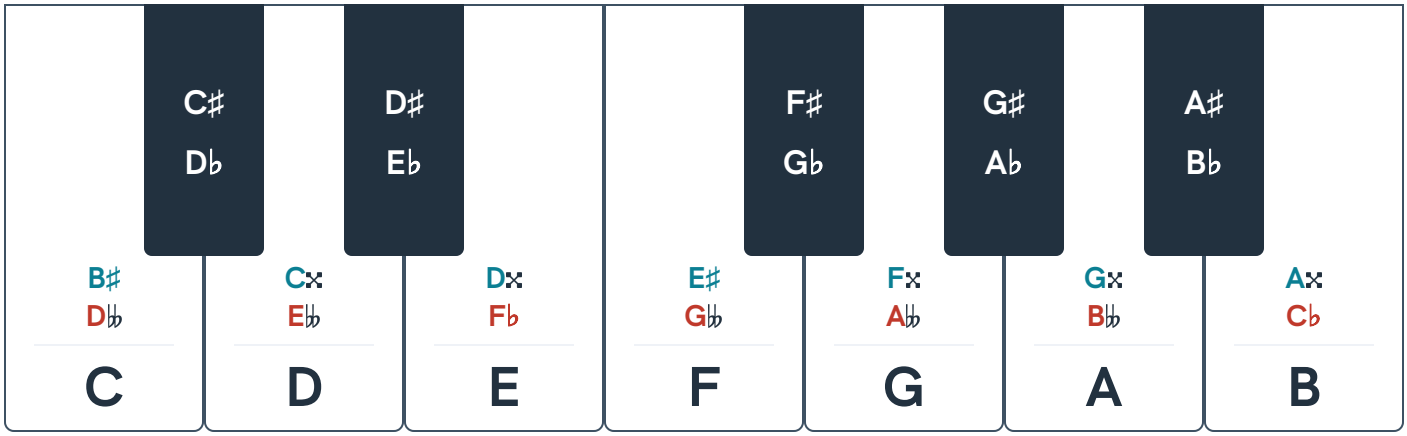
Same Sound, Different Name

One piano key can have **more than one name**. Which name you write depends on the **letters** around it. Notes that sound the same but are spelled differently are called **enharmonic**.

ONE OCTAVE, EVERY NAME



♯ sharp name ♭ flat name 𝄪 double sharp = up two half steps 𝄫 double flat = down two half steps (more: Handout 227)

The four rarest names, B𝄪 (= C♯), F𝄫 (= E♭), E𝄪 (= F♯) and C𝄫 (= B♭), are left off the map.

THREE SPELLING RULES

1

A scale uses each letter once

F♯ major needs seven different letters, so the 7th note is **E♯**, not F.

F♯ G♯ A♯ B C♯ D♯ E♯

F♯ G♯ A♯ B C♯ D♯ F

Same sounds, but the second row uses F twice and has no E.

2

Intervals count letters

Count the letters first: **C D E** is a 3rd, **C D** is a 2nd. Then count half steps to find the quality.

C–E♭ is a **minor 3rd**. C–D♯ is an **augmented 2nd**.

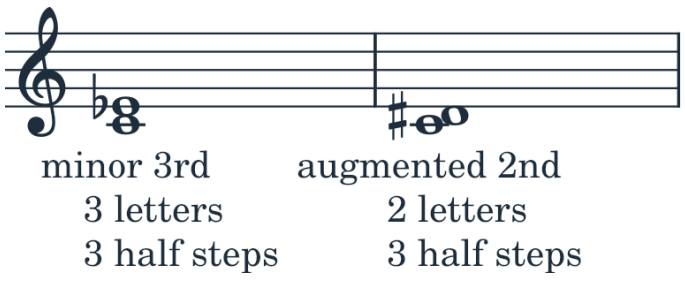
3

The name fits the scale

Pick the spelling the **key signature** and the **letters** of the scale ask for. Sound is the same; the written name tells a reader what the note **does**.

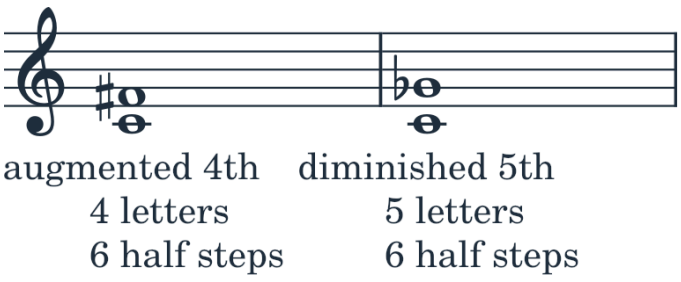
SAME SOUND, TWO SPELLINGS

3 half steps



Play both: the **same two keys**. One is spelled with 3 letters, one with 2.

6 half steps



Again the **same two keys**: a 4th spelled with F♯, a 5th spelled with G♭.

TRY IT Play C then E♭, then C then D♯. Look at the keys you pressed: they are **identical**. Now say why one is a 3rd and the other a 2nd. **Count the letters!**

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