TAB Detective: Find the Note and Keep the Rhythm

Keep two checks separate: where is the note, and how long does it last?

1 · NAME THE SOUND

Each fret raises pitch by one half step. Natural-note gaps: C–D 2 frets, D–E 2, E–F 1, F–G 2, G–A 2, A–B 2, B–C 1. Start from the open-string note and count frets. The octave number changes at C.
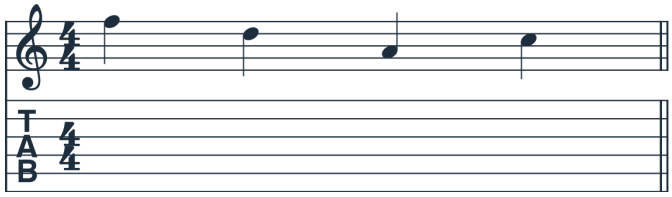
Write the sounding letter + octave. Standard tuning, no capo. Open strings 1–3 sound E4, B3, G3. C4 = middle C. The guitar staff on this page uses the usual convention: notes are written one octave above their sound.

Item	String	Fret	Sound
1	1	0	_____
2	2	1	_____
3	3	2	_____
4	1	3	_____

Item	String	Fret	Sound
5	2	0	_____
6	3	0	_____
7	1	1	_____
8	2	3	_____

2 · WRITE THE FOUR MISSING TAB DIGITS
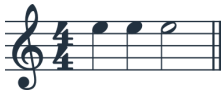
Review treble-staff note names before part 2 (Handout 351). Write one TAB digit directly below each rhythmic staff note, on its target string. Left to right, target strings: **1 · 2 · 3 · 2**. Use frets 0–3.
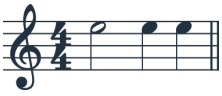


3 · MATCH RHYTHM, THEN LISTEN

Match pairs 1–3 to rhythm cards A–C. Use each letter once. Cards show rhythm on a repeated pitch; compare durations only.

A
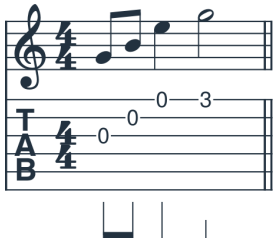


B
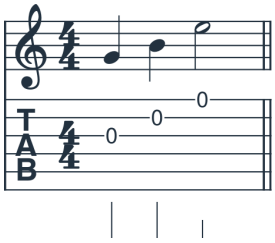


C
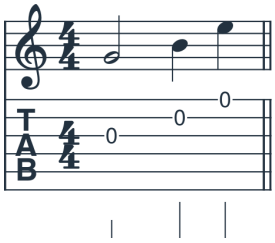


Pair 1 → _____



Pair 2 → _____



Pair 3 → _____



Audio 1–3 check the matching numbered pairs at 80 BPM. Audio 4: which note durations changed? Notes ___ and ___.

Try it

Tap pair 1 before playing. Then compare it with audio 4: the pitches stay the same, but the timing changes.

Listen: tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-tab-to-notes
Numbered in-house MIDI/MP3 pitch and rhythm models.

Answers · sound / written

Part 1: 1: E4 / E5; 2: C4 / C5; 3: A3 / A4; 4: G4 / G5; 5: B3 / B4; 6: G3 / G4; 7: F4 / F5; 8: D4 / D5
Part 2, left to right: 1: 1 (F4 / F5); 2: 3 (D4 / D5); 3: 2 (A3 / A4); 4: 1 (C4 / C5)
Part 3: 1: C; 2: A; 3: B. Audio 4: note 1 changes from 1/2 to 1 beat; note 3 changes from 1 to 1/2 beat. Notes 2 and 4 keep their durations.

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.