LISTEN
Scan to hear every example
tissimo.co/worksheets/intervals-2nds-3rds

Intervals: steps & skips

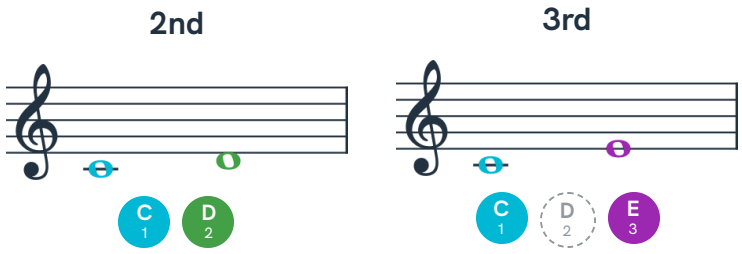
An **interval** is the distance between two notes — how far apart they sound. Two common melodic movements are the **2nd** (a step) and the **3rd** (a skip).

COUNT THE LETTERS

To find an interval's number, **count every letter from the first note to the last — and count both ends**.

C up to D: C is 1, D is 2. Two letters, so it's a **2nd**.

C up to E: C is 1, D is 2, E is 3. Three letters, so it's a **3rd** — even though you only play two notes. **The letter you skip still gets counted.**

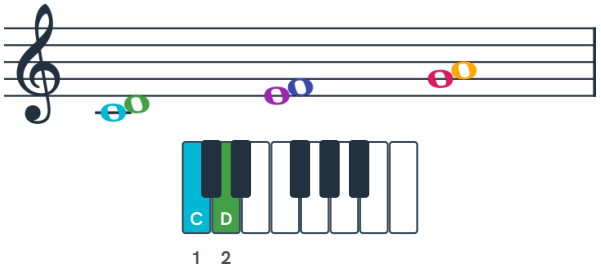


TWO SHAPES TO RECOGNIZE

A 2nd is a step

next-door letters

In these examples, neighboring white keys. On the staff, a **line note and the space right beside it** — the two notes sit so close they lean on each other.

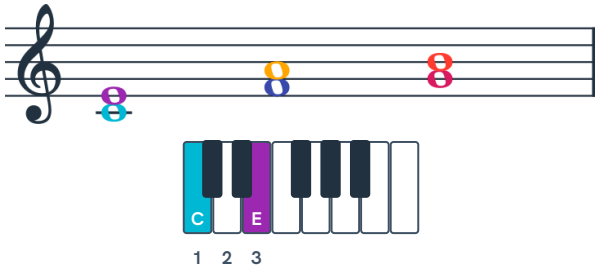


C-D, E-F and G-A — all 2nds

A 3rd is a skip

skip one letter
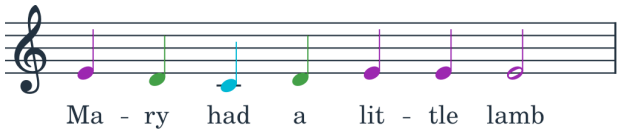
In these examples, skip one white key. On the staff, **line to the very next line, or space to the very next space** — the notes stack neatly.



C-E, F-A and G-B — all 3rds
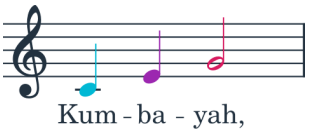
SONGS YOU ALREADY KNOW

"Mary Had a Little Lamb" walks in steps



pitch changes are 2nds; repeated notes are unisons

"Kumbaya" hops in skips



two 3rds in a row — C up to E, E up to G

Try it Play C then D — a step, like walking. Now C then E — a skip, like hopping. Then play each pair **together**: compare how the two intervals sound. Finish by playing the two tunes above — **first the walking one, then the hopping one**. Songs for every interval, up and down: Handout 375.

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