One Start or Two?

Two-mallet marimba · check the targets, then check when they begin.

1 · ASSIGN THE HANDS

For these exercises, L means left hand and plays the lower pitch; R means right hand and plays the upper pitch. C4 is middle C. Write a pitch name, including its octave, in each blank.

1. E4 + C4
L: _____
R: _____

2. F4 + D4
L: _____
R: _____

3. G4 + E4
L: _____
R: _____

4. A4 + F4
L: _____
R: _____

2 · READ THE TIME AXES, THEN LISTEN

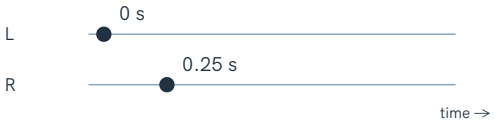
Dots mark starts in seconds from the same zero. Write **one start** if times are equal, or **two starts** if unequal.

1.



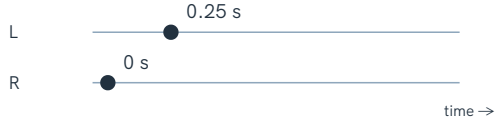
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2.



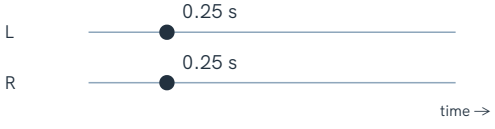
_____

3.



_____

4.



_____

Now listen to Items 1–4 without looking at the key. Each uses C4/E4 with the same dynamics. Write one start or two starts:
Audio 1: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____ 4: _____
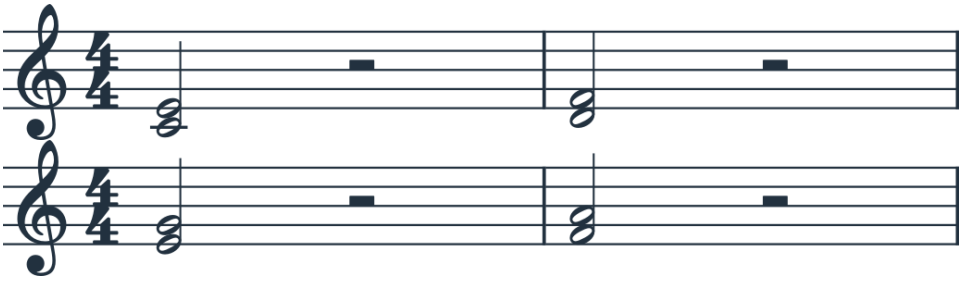
These synthetic examples contrast shared and separated starts; they do not set an acceptable timing error for your playing. Ask your teacher to judge your shared starts.

3 · CHANGE THE PAIR DURING THE REST

4/4 · quarter = 60 BPM. Start each pair together on beat 1. Prepare the next pair during beats 3–4.

Line A

Line B



A: correct targets ☐ shared starts ☐ prepared during rest ☐
B: correct targets ☐ shared starts ☐ prepared during rest ☐

Try it

Ask your teacher to set a comfortable register, spacing and stroke. Check targets and shared starts separately; prepare both mallets over the next pair during the rest.

Listen: scan or visit **tissimo.co/worksheets/marimba-pair-togetherness-check**
Neutral piano models pitch and timing only; not marimba decay, grip or rebound. · 60 BPM

Targets: 1. L C4, R E4; 2. L D4, R F4; 3. L E4, R G4; 4. L F4, R A4.
Axes: 1. one start, 2. two starts, 3. two starts, 4. one start. Audio: 1. two starts, 2. one start, 3. one start, 4. two starts.

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