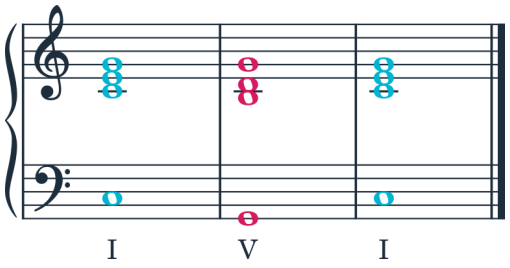
Tissimo

LISTEN
Scan to hear every example
tissimo.co/worksheets/melodic-dictation

Melodic Dictation

Melodic dictation means writing down a tune you hear. You don't need perfect pitch, just a plan: **find home**, **trace the shape**, then **write it down**.

1 · FIND HOME



I – V – I in C major

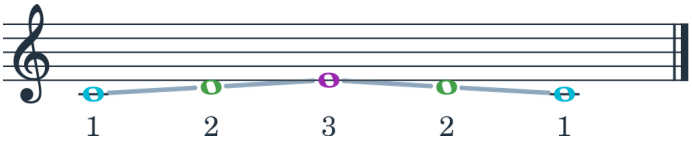
Every dictation starts with three chords, **I–V–I**. The last chord is **home**.

Hum its lowest note and hold it: that note is **1**, the tonic (Handout 71). The **V** chord in the middle leans back toward it.

Most tunes start on 1, 3 or 5 and end on 1. Lost in the middle? Hum your way back down to home and count the steps.

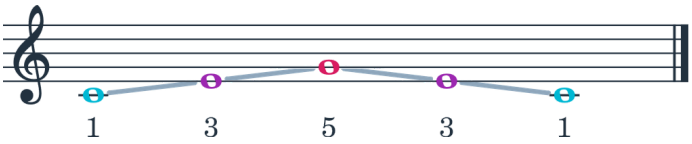
2 · TRACE THE SHAPE: STEPS, SKIPS, LEAPS

Steps
next door: 1 to 2



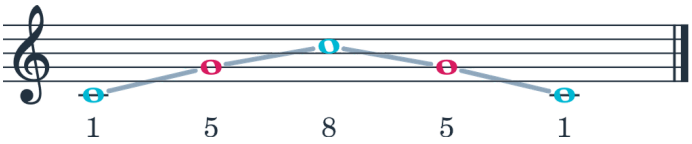
The tune **walks** to the very next note, up or down.

Skips
jump one: 1 to 3



It **hops** over one note, often along the home chord, 1–3–5.

Leaps
a 4th or more



It **jumps**: 1 to 5, or 1 to 8 (home, an octave up). These are the leaps you hear most.

Ask two questions about every move: **up or down?** and **how far?** The gray line is the shape — draw it in the air while you listen. Every interval has a song to remember it by (Handout 375).

3 · WRITE IT DOWN: NUMBERS, LETTERS, RHYTHM
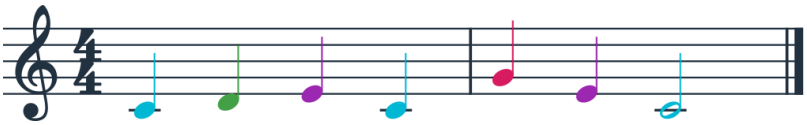
1 **Numbers**
count from home



2 **Letters**
in C major, 1 is C



3 **Rhythm**
short or long?



Don't write everything at once. Listen once for the **numbers**, turn them into **letters** in the key, then listen again for the **rhythm**: which notes are short and which are long. Three small questions instead of one big one.

Try it **Echo game.** A friend plays three notes from C D E F G, starting on C. Sing them back as numbers, then play them. Make it four notes, then five. On your own, use **Exercise 68**: every item has audio.

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