

One Home Note, One Changed Degree

Major and Mixolydian share a home note but differ in one degree. So do natural minor and Dorian. Hear the difference between the two modes by listening for the **one note that changed** — not by guessing from the tonic.

MAJOR VS. MIXOLYDIAN: THE SEVENTH

Both scales start on **C** and share the same major third. The only difference: Mixolydian lowers **scale degree 7** by one semitone ($B\sharp \rightarrow B\flat$). Compare the seventh note: B natural in C major, B-flat in C Mixolydian.

C Major
degree 7: $B\sharp$



C Mixolydian
degree 7: $B\flat$ (lowered)



NATURAL MINOR VS. DORIAN: THE SIXTH

Both scales start on **A** and share the same minor third. The only difference: Dorian raises **scale degree 6** by one semitone ($F\flat \rightarrow F\sharp$). Compare the sixth note: F natural in A natural minor, F-sharp in A Dorian.

A Natural Minor
degree 6: $F\flat$



A Dorian
degree 6: $F\sharp$ (raised)



HEAR IT IN A MELODY

Each pair below uses the **same rhythm, same tonic, same opening**. Only the fourth note in bar 1 changes. Use the QR code or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/modal-listening-sixth-seventh to play both versions.

Pair 1 — C home

Version A: C major ($B\sharp$ on beat 4)



Version B: C Mixolydian ($B\flat$ on beat 4)



Pair 2 — A home

Version A: A natural minor ($F\flat$ on beat 4)



Version B: A Dorian ($F\sharp$ on beat 4)



tissimo.co/worksheets/modal-listening-sixth-seventh



LISTEN, MARK, REVEAL

1 Listen Cover the mini-key. Play Trials 1–4. Each track plays the tonic, a pause, Version A, a pause, then Version B. The order changes between trials.

2 Mark Which version has the changed degree? Write A or B for each trial.

C pair — lowered seventh: Trial 1 _____ Trial 2 _____

A pair — raised sixth: Trial 3 _____ Trial 4 _____

3 Reveal Open the trial's "Check yourself" track, then read the mini-key below.

These comparisons use a supplied home note and two choices. A changed note alone does not identify the mode of a whole song.

MINI KEY Trial 1: **B** (C Mixolydian, lowered seventh); Trial 2: **A** (C Mixolydian, lowered seventh); Trial 3: **B** (A Dorian, raised sixth); Trial 4: **A** (A Dorian, raised sixth). The changed degree is 7 in the C pair and 6 in the A pair; the third stays unchanged.

Try it Compare B natural with B-flat against the same C. Then compare F natural with F-sharp against the same A; C, the minor third, stays unchanged. Handout 237 (The modes) and Exercise 49 (Name the modes) pair with this sheet.