The natural: back to plain

A **natural** (♮) cancels a sharp or a flat: the note returns to its plain, white-key self. It's the eraser of the accidental family.

BACK TO PLAIN

Canceling a sharp

F♯ → F♮

The first F is sharp — the black key. The **natural (♮)** in front of the second F cancels it: back to the plain white key. Watch the color drain out.
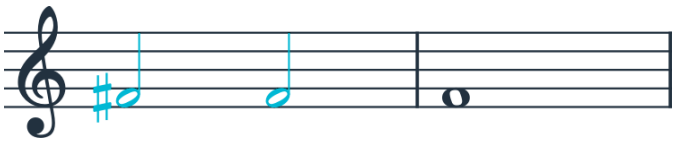


Canceling a flat

B♭ → B♮

Same trick in the other direction: the ♮ cancels the flat, and B returns to its plain self. **One symbol undoes both** sharps and flats.



HOW LONG DOES AN ACCIDENTAL LAST? UNTIL THE BARLINE



A sharp or flat sticks to its note **for the rest of the measure** — the second F here is still sharp, no symbol needed. The **barline wipes the slate clean**: after it, F is plain again, automatically. The ♮ is for when you can't wait that long.

Try it Sharps, flats and naturals share a family name: **accidentals**. Play F♯–F♮–F♯–F♮ and listen to the note flicker between black and white. Then open any sheet music and go accidental-hunting: every ♯, ♭ and ♮ you find, name what it does.

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