The eighth note
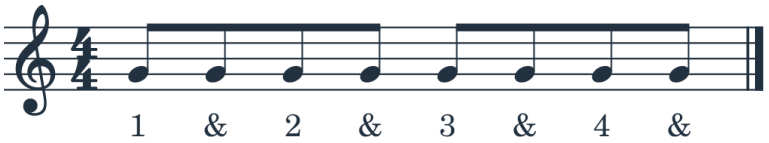
Two sounds inside one beat: the **eighth note** lasts **half a count**. You've already played them — "one-a-penny" and "in a" were eighth notes in disguise.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE — AND HOW LONG IT LASTS



½ beat

- **filled notehead** — quick and light
- **stem** — as always
- **flag** — the little banner = cut the beat in half. In pairs, flags join into a **beam**
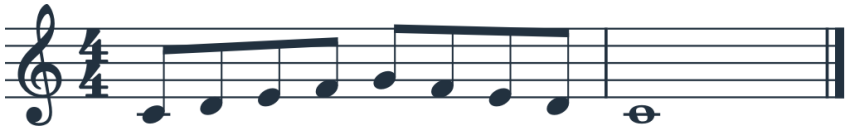


Count "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &" — the "&" splits each beat in two. Notice the beams joining the pairs.

TWO INSIDE EVERY BEAT



Two eighths = one quarter. Eight of them fill a bar — that's where the name comes from.

HEAR IT IN A MELODY



The five-finger scale up and down in one quick bar — then a whole note to land.

TAP THE RHYTHM



Slow taps and fast taps: eighth notes get **two taps per beat**. Say "1, 2-and, 3, 4-and" and keep the underlying beat rock steady.

Try it Walk quarter notes with your feet and say "run-ning" on each step — two syllables per footstep is exactly two eighths per beat. You met real ones in Hot Cross Buns ("one-a-pen-ny") and Jingle Bells ("in a").

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