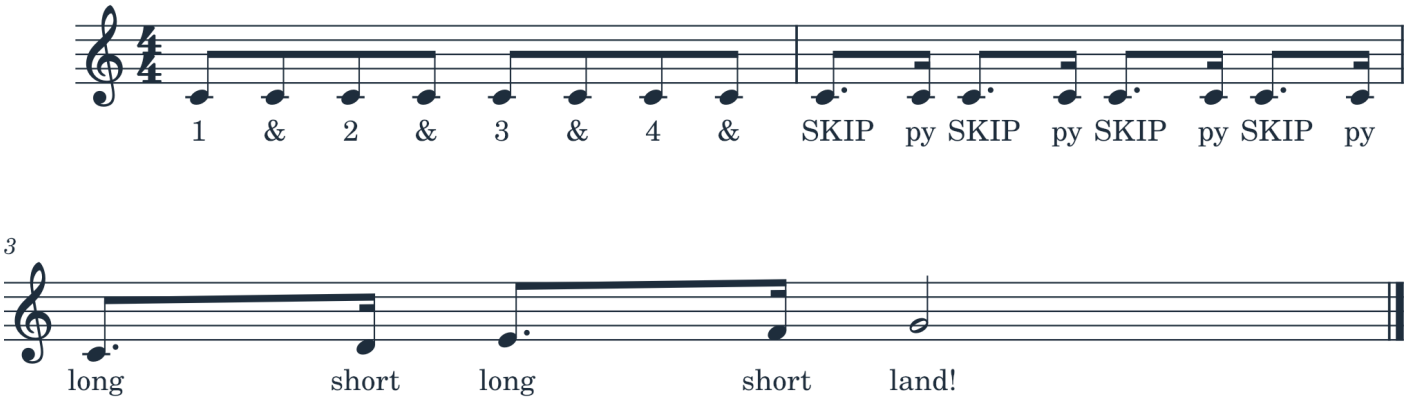
The Dotted Eighth + Sixteenth

the skipping rhythm — LONG-short inside a single beat

You know the dotted quarter + eighth. Shrink it by half and you get music's favorite skip. A **dotted eighth + sixteenth** squeezes LONG-short into ONE beat: the dotted eighth takes three quarters of the beat, the sixteenth flicks in just before the next one. Say **"SKIP-py"**. It powers everything from "The Star-Spangled Banner" ("Oh-oh say") to holiday sleigh rides. Every phrase of Chopin's Prelude in A skips on beat 1 (Handout 380).

EVEN EIGHTHS VS THE SKIP — THEN A MELODY THAT SKIPS



Line 1: even "1-&" walking, then "SKIP-py" skipping — same beat length! Line 2: the skip climbs a melody and lands.

The math

Dotted eighth = ¾ beat, sixteenth = ¼ beat. Together: exactly **one beat**, split 3-to-1. The sixteenth belongs to the END of the beat — late, light, and leaning into the next note.

Don't swing it lazy

The classic error is softening it into a triplet lilt. A true dotted pair is **crisper**: hold…hold…FLICK. Count "1-e-&-**a**" and place the short note exactly on the "a". Hear the triplet lilt of swing in Exercise 88.

Try it Walk it, then skip it: march around the room on even eighths ("left-right"), then literally SKIP — your feet naturally make LONG-short, LONG-short. That body feeling is the rhythm. Then play line 2 and let the last measure land like both feet jumping down together.

LISTEN
Scan to hear every example
tissimo.co/worksheets/notes-9-dotted-eighth

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