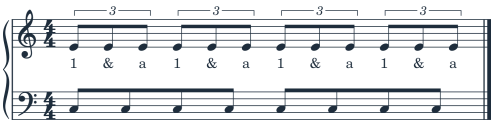Polyrhythms

two rhythms at once — three against two, the classic first polyrhythm

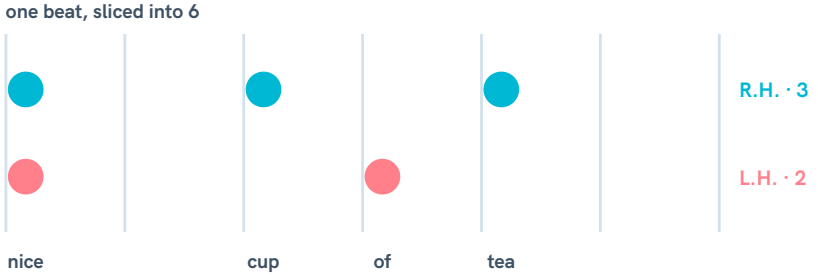
A polyrhythm is two different slicings of the same beat, played together. The most famous is **3 against 2**: one hand plays triplets while the other plays even eighths. They only meet on the downbeat — in between, they interlock like gears. The magic phrase: say **“nice cup of tea”** — its syllables land exactly where the combined notes fall.

THREE AGAINST TWO, WRITTEN OUT



Right hand: triplets. Left hand: even eighths. Same beat, two different slicings.

WHERE THE NOTES LAND



The grid divides one beat into 6. Right hand lands on 1-3-5, left on 1-4 — only the downbeat is shared.

Try it Learn it as ONE combined rhythm first: say **“nice cup of tea”** in a loop and tap along — **both hands** on “nice”, **right hand alone** on “cup” and “tea”, **left hand alone** on “of”. Loop one beat forever, slow as syrup, and only speed up when it feels boring. Then move it to the piano: right hand on any high key, left on any low one.

LISTEN
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