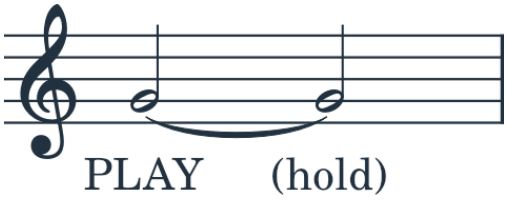
Ties vs Slurs

Both are curved lines that connect notes, and they look almost exactly alike. Don't read the curve — read the **notes** at its two ends.

SAME CURVE, TWO DIFFERENT JOBS

Tie

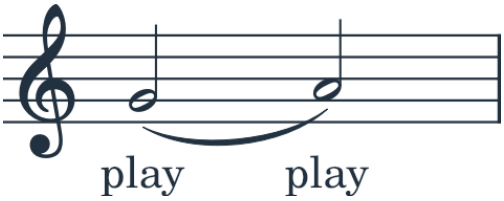
same pitch → add the values, play **once**



2 + 2 = **4 beats** · **1** key press · hold through.

Slur

different pitches → play each, connect them smoothly



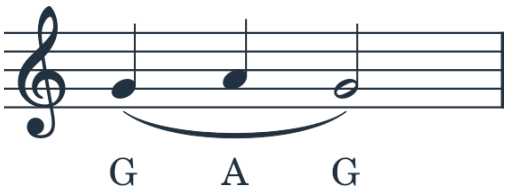
2 notes · **2** key presses · no gap between them (*legato*).

THE LOOK-ALIKE TRAP

Before you play a curve, ask two questions:

1. Are both ends the **same pitch** — same line or space, same letter?
2. Are they **next-door neighbors**, with no other note in between?

Two yeses = tie. Any "no" = slur. A tie only ever joins two notes, and it may cross a barline to make a note last longer than the measure. A slur can cover two notes (Handout 62) or a whole tune.



Starts and ends on G, but A sits in between: a **slur**. Play all three keys.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Write **T** (tie) or **S** (slur) next to each numbered curve. Then count: how many times do your fingers actually **press a key**?



Answers: 1 slur 2 tie 3 slur 4 tie 5 slur · 11 notes printed, 9 key presses

Try it Play the spot-the-difference line slowly, counting **1-2-3-4** out loud. On a tie, keep the key down and keep counting; under a slur, pass each note smoothly to the next. Review the sigh in **Handout 62** (two-note slurs). Practice: Exercise 76.

LISTEN
Scan to hear every example
tissimo.co/worksheets/ties-vs-slurs

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