Two-Note Slurs

the sigh — drop on the first note, float off the second

The smallest slur is a whole technique. Two notes under one little curve are played as a single gesture called the **drop-lift** (or the "sigh"): the arm **drops its weight** into the first note — strong, warm — and the hand **floats up off** the second — lighter, softer, slightly shorter. DOWN-up. Never two equal pokes: the first note leans, the second lets go, like a sigh or a bouncing ball's last little hop.

SIGH PRACTICE — SAY "DOWN-UP" AS YOU PLAY



Each pair falls one step. Drop into the first note with arm weight, peel off the second with a floating wrist.

The wrist is the spring

On the drop, the wrist dips **slightly** below level; on the lift, it rises and carries the hand off the key, fingertip leaving last — like a raindrop leaving a leaf.

Listen for the shape

Strong-weak. If both notes sound the same, it is not a slur yet. Exaggerate at first: **too much** lean, **too much** float — then dial it back to elegant.

Try it Play the line three ways: first say **"DOWN-up"** aloud with every pair; then silently, letting the wrist do the talking; finally with eyes closed, listening only for strong-weak. Then hunt: two-note slurs hide in almost every classical piece — Mozart practically speaks in sighs. Practice: Exercise 76.

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.