

# Two Strings at Once

Violin · Prepare an adjacent open-string pair and sustain both pitches together.

## 1 · FIND TWO NEIGHBORING OPEN STRINGS

Standard violin tuning, low to high: **G3 · D4 · A4 · E5**. The numbers name octaves, not fingers or strings; C4 is middle C. Open means no left-hand finger stops the string. Neighboring strings are adjacent.

### G3 + D4



Adjacent pair · perfect fifth

### D4 + A4



Adjacent pair · perfect fifth

### A4 + E5



Adjacent pair · perfect fifth

Each pair spans seven semitones in the equal-tempered piano reference. These open pairs are also called **double stops**; the name does not require two fingers.

## 2 · READ ONE START OR TWO



**Bar 1: together.** Two aligned notes share one start. Sustain both pitches for two beats, then rest for two.

**Bar 2: successive.** D4 begins on beat 1; A4 begins on beat 3. Two separate starts.

## 3 · PREPARE, SOUND, REST

Ask your teacher to establish comfortable contact on both strings. Sustain each aligned pair in **one bow**. In bar 2, play the strings one after another. Your teacher chooses bow directions and a comfortable pulse.



Bars 1–4: D4+A4 · D4 then A4 · G3+D4 · A4+E5. Keep counting through each rest. Listen for both pitches throughout each pair; ask your teacher to adjust contact without forcing the bow.

### Try it

In bar 1, how many starts and how many pitches are there? Play each pitch alone, then ask your teacher to help you combine them. Keep both audible for the full half note.

Listen: scan or visit [tissimo.co/worksheets/violin-open-pair-bow-contact](https://tissimo.co/worksheets/violin-open-pair-bow-contact)

In-house MIDI/MP3 examples · quarter note = 60 BPM · neutral piano · no count-in

Recordings model start times only; piano notes release slightly early.

Use printed values for violin sustains. Audio cannot judge bow contact.



Mini-key: bar 1 has 1 start and 2 pitches: D4 and A4. Bars 1–4 have 1, 2, 1, 1 onset groups (starts); each bar contains two individual pitch attacks.