Pluck, Prepare, Bow

Follow pizz. and arco — and use the printed rest to get the bow ready before the next note.

1 · TWO RIGHT-HAND ACTIONS

pizz.

Pizzicato: pluck the string with the right-hand index finger. The bow is held but out of the way — your teacher confirms a safe bow position. The marking **pizz.** stays active across barlines until arco cancels it.

arco

Arco: draw the bow across the string. The marking **arco** cancels pizz. and stays active until pizz. returns. A barline alone does **not** reset the mode — only a new marking changes it.

2 · MODE TIMELINE — PREPARE IN THE REST

Bars 1–2 are **pizz.** Bars 3–4 are **arco**. The mode changes **once**. Use the half rest in bar 2 (beats 3–4) to re-position the bow and be ready.

The ★ **mark** is the preparation window. Bar 3 beat 1 arrives on time only if the bow is in place before the rest ends.

3 · FOUR-BAR STUDY — OPEN D, PLUCK THEN BOW

4/4 · quarter = 60. All notes are open D4 (open D string). Each bar: one half note then a half rest. Bars 1–2: pluck. Bars 3–4: bow. Prepare in bar 2 beats 3–4.

4 · COUNT ALOUD WHILE YOU PREPARE

Say the beats out loud as you play: **1–2–3–4** for each bar. On bar 2 beats 3–4 (the rest), keep counting — **"3 … 4 …"** — while the bow moves. If the bow is still moving when you say **"1"** for bar 3, slow the tempo and try again. Counting makes the silent preparation visible.

Try it Play bar 1 pizzicato at quarter = 60. On bar 2 beats 3–4 (the rest), move the bow into position without making a sound. Start bar 3 arco on beat 1. If bar 3 is late, the preparation was too slow — ask the teacher to slow the tempo.

Listen: tissimo.co/worksheets/violin-pizz-arco-state-line
quarter = 60 · Pitch and rhythm reference only (MIDI violin). Audio does not model bow transfer or plucked sustain — teacher demonstrates the action.

Mini-key: Mode in bar 2 = **pizz.** (arco starts bar 3). Preparation window: bar 2 beats 3–4 (the half rest). A barline alone does not change the mode.

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