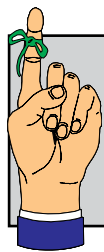


# The Anacrusis (a.k.a. 'upbeat')



The formal definition of an anacrusis, or 'upbeat', is 'one or more unaccented notes before the first bar-line'. Here are some rather famous examples of tunes with an anacrusis:

When you sing these, notice how the anacrusis is not accented. It is the first beat of the first bar that is accented.



**REMEMBER:** 1. The anacrusis is not a bar! Think of it as a beat or beats that 'escaped' from the last bar. So, the anacrusis + the final bar = one full bar!

The following rhythms begin with an upbeat, but the last bar in each is **WRONG** - it does not allow for the upbeat. Can you rewrite each rhythm with the correct final bar?

See? This allows for the upbeat

# Meet $\frac{6}{8}$ Time



Up until now we've only had time signatures with the number 2, 3 or 4 on the top. These were all 'simple' time signatures.

Well,  $\frac{6}{8}$  is a 'compound' time signature. It's so different, it's as if it's from MARS!

The '6' on the top means that there are six beats in the bar, and the '8' on the bottom means that the beats are quaver beats. BUT... the proper definition of  $\frac{6}{8}$  is NOT 'six quavers per bar!' (Contrary to popular opinion)

Let's compare the time signature of  $\frac{3}{4}$ . It also has six quavers per bar:



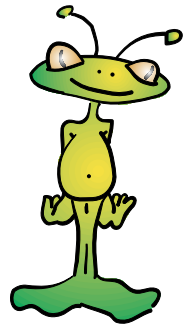
This grouping shows us **three crotchet** beats.

But  $\frac{6}{8}$ , which also has six quavers per bar, is very different because...  
THE QUAVERS ARE GROUPED IN THREES! (Incredibly important)

In  $\frac{6}{8}$ , a bar full of quavers looks like this:



This grouping shows us **two dotted crotchet** beats.



So when we are describing  $\frac{6}{8}$ , it's not enough to say 'six quavers per bar' because that does not tell us anything about the way the quavers are grouped. We have to say '**two dotted crotchets per bar**'.

$\frac{3}{4}$ versus $\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$ Simple Triple	$\frac{6}{8}$ Compound Duple
Grouping of quavers		
Beats shown		

'Compound' time means dotted beats. In  $\frac{6}{8}$  there are 2 dotted crotchet beats per bar. This means the definition of  $\frac{6}{8}$  is '**compound duple**'.

# Compose a Rhythm



In Grade 2 you learned to compose a four-bar rhythm based on a given opening. Well, in Grade 3 you have to do exactly the same thing! There are just two important differences:

1. The given opening might be incomplete. You will have to complete it before moving on.
2. The opening may begin on an upbeat. This means you'll have to adjust your final bar.

In fact, it's quite possible that your opening will be incomplete AND have an anacrusis (whoa!)

In Grade 2 we also learned some strategies for composing a four-bar rhythm. Here they are again (keeping in mind that your given opening is represented by the symbol  $\Delta$ ):

	Bar 1	Bar 2	Bar 3	Bar 4
Option 1	$\Delta$	something super creative	repeat $\Delta$	long note
Option 2	$\Delta$	$\Delta$ with some changes	$\Delta$ with even more changes	long note
Option 3	$\Delta$	contrasting idea	something similar to $\Delta$	long note

Now that you're in Grade 3, you should probably experiment with a little more interest in your final bar - try doing something creative for the first half of the bar, and then using longer note values in the second half.

Here are a whole bunch of openings, some with an anacrusis, some incomplete, some both!

Remember to observe the time signature, count up the beats given and adjust your final bar if necessary.

And the most important thing of all... CLAP your rhythm to yourself and to your teacher!

