

3rd Grade Study Guide

Counting Rhythms

Time Signature

The top number of a time signature tells us how many beats are in a measure. When you are done writing in the counts, look back to the top number and remind yourself of how many beats are in a measure. If you have a number in your measure higher than the top number of your time signature, you have done something wrong. If you don't have the top number of your time signature in your measure, you have done something wrong.

The diagram illustrates the 3/4 time signature. On the left, the numbers 3 and 4 are stacked vertically, with a downward arrow pointing to the 3. The first measure contains a quarter note on beat 1, a quarter rest on beat 2, and a quarter note on beat 3. The second measure contains a half note on beat 1 and a half note on beat 2. The third measure contains four sixteenth notes: a quarter note on beat 1, two eighth notes on beat 2, and a quarter note on beat 3. A vertical barline is labeled 'Barline' with an arrow. A double barline is labeled 'Double Barline' with an arrow. A bracket under the second measure is labeled 'Measure'.

1. Quarter notes always get the number of the beat they are on.
2. Quarter rests are the same as quarter notes, except you need to put a parentheses around the number to show that it is silent.
3. With pairs of eighth notes, the first eighth note gets the number of the beat it is on, the second always gets and.
4. Half notes are worth two beats and always get two numbers, the second number is always in parentheses.
5. With groups of sixteenth notes, the first always gets the number of the beat it is on, the second gets **ee**, the third gets **and**, and the fourth gets **ah**. The only one that ever changes is the first.