

Working out INTERVALS

To work out how to describe any interval, use the following steps:

1. Work out the basic interval - it's "number" - by counting the letter names from the LOWER note up to the UPPER note. **Include both letters.**
e.g. the interval between C (lower note) and G (upper note) is worked out by counting the letters C, D, E, F, G = 5. So it is a "fifth" of some sort.

2. Count how many semitones are included within the interval. This can be done by counting all the actual included notes - picture or draw a keyboard and count all the black and white keys. BUT it is important to remember that **the starting note DOES NOT count!**
e.g. from C to G again, count C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G = 7 semitones.

3. Use the chart below.

e.g. in the chart, the column for fifths shows that a PERFECT 5th includes 7 semitones.
So in the example given, the interval is described as a PERFECT 5th.

		2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8ve
Plus an Octave :		9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th
largest ↑ ↓ smallest	Augmented	3	5	6	8	10	12	13
	Major	2	4			9	11	
	Perfect			5	7			12
	Minor	1	3			8	10	
	Diminished	0	2	4	6	7	9	11

If there is an additional OCTAVE included within the interval, and can be described using the GREY numbers shown in the table, or using the standard (black numbers) description, preceded by the word "COMPOUND".