

# Reading Rhythms 2

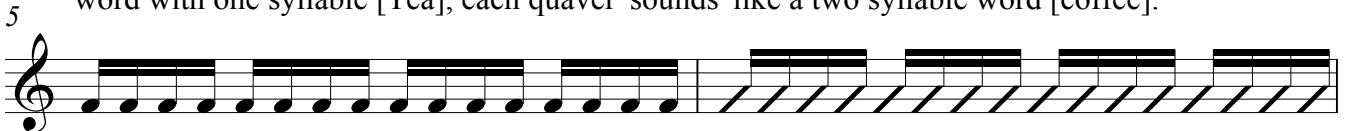
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The 1st bar shows crotchets in standard notation, the 2nd shows crotchets in rhythm slashes, these are counted in exactly the same way 1, 2, 3, 4 [see lessons on 'Reading Tab and Rhythm' and 'Basic Strum Patterns']. Bars 3 and 4 show quavers in exactly the same way.

However, some people find rhythms easier to 'read' rather than count. Each crotchet 'sounds' like a word with one syllable [Tea], each quaver 'sounds' like a two syllable word [coffee].



The two bars above show semiquavers, again in standard notation and rhythm slashes. These are counted 1, e, &, a, 2, e, &, a, 3, e, &, a, 4, e, &, a. They 'sound' like any four syllable word eg [caterpillar].



The two bars above show a quaver joined to 2 semiquavers. These are counted 1, &, a, etc. They 'sound' like [dum diddy].



The two bars above show 2 semiquavers joined to a quaver. These are counted 1, e, &, etc. They 'sound' like [diddy dum].



The two bars above show triplet quavers, this is where 3 equal quavers are played in the time 2 would normally be played. They are counted 123, 223, 323, 423. They 'sound' like any 3 syllable word [rock 'n' roll].

Reading rhythms in this way can help, whether you are learning a single line melody or a set strum pattern. Tap your foot to the beat and clap the 'sounds' of the rhythm until you have the sound, then play the melody or strum the sound. Practice this enough and you will know exactly what a rhythm 'sounds' like as soon as you see it, just like reading this text.