

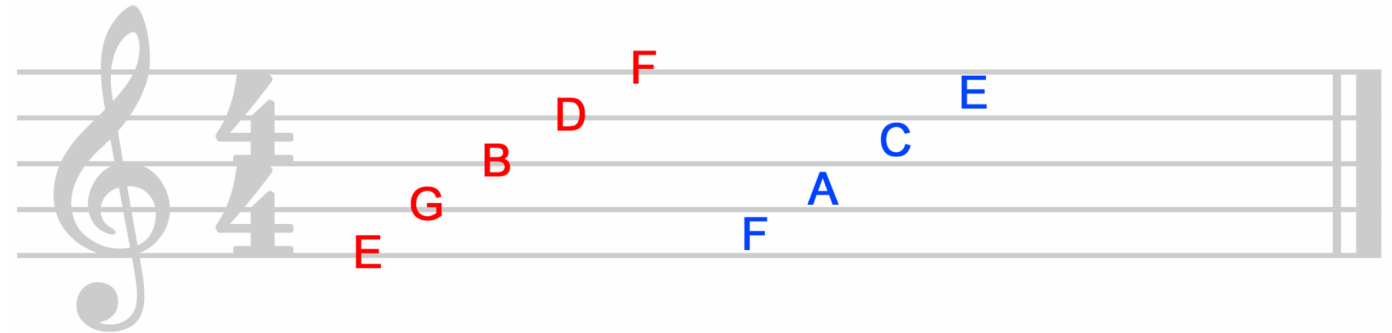
Note Reading 101

So... what do all the lines and spaces actually mean?

A musical staff is made up of five lines. Notes can sit on a line or in a space between the lines.

In the treble clef:

- the lines are (from bottom to top) E, G, B, D, F
- the spaces are F, A, C, E.



The further we go up the staff lines, the higher the notes get.

- i** An easy way to remember the names of the **lines** is a *mnemonic*. From bottom to top we can say:

Every **G**ood **B**oy **D**eserves **F**ruit

or...

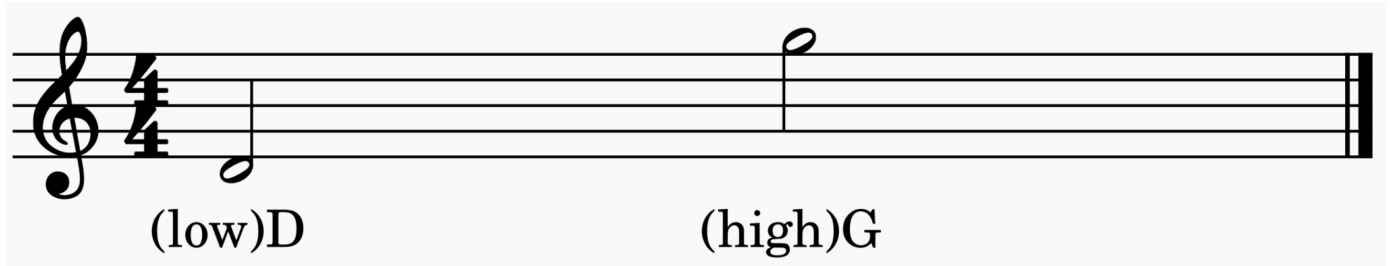
Elephants **G**ot **B**ig **D**irty **F**eet

Pick your favourite or make up your own!

- i** The spaces are perhaps a little easier. SPACE rhymes with FACE!

Notes can appear above and below the staff as well. We can easily work out what these are from our [musical alphabet](#). Each time you enter a new line or a new space it's one step in the alphabet.

- The space below the 'E' line will be 'D'
- The space above the 'F' line will be 'G'.



Umm... which D is which?

You may notice that I've written "low" and "high" on the notes above. The musical alphabet only has seven letters, and because they go around in a circle they will repeat.

Every time we get to a new loop in the circle, this is called an "octave" ("oct", like "octopus" – 8 notes).

i One octave (8 notes) from A would be :
A B C D E F G A

One octave (8 notes) from D would be
D E F G A B C D

This is what we mean when we play a "one-octave scale".

Remember that the higher up the staff we climb, the higher the notes get. At the beginning, we are working in **one octave D major** (D and A string) so the lowest note you will see will be open D (below the staff) and the highest will be D on the A string (third finger).

