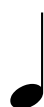


# Rhythm Time-Names

## Rationale

Rhythm is the result of combining long and short sounds and long and short rests between sounds. Traditionally 'time-names' have been used to learn rhythms. Practitioners of Indian and Latin-American music make use of them to aid the memory when learning by rote, but in Western Music we learn to associate musical symbols with combinations of syllables in order to reproduce rhythms from notation. Rhythm time-names provide a basic vocabulary of rhythm groups (rather like learning the vocabulary of a foreign language) that can be applied *consistently* to any piece of musical notation in order to read and perform the intended rhythm. Speed or *tempo* is determined by the 'pulse' (often in classical music this is an 'underlying pulse' e.g. you don't actually hear the pulse, just the rhythmic overlay). Pulse is measured in Beats Per Minute (BPM) that may be determined by the use of a metronome, e.g. ♩ = 60. Pulse is often in units of quarter notes (♩), so that is where we begin learning to read rhythm.

Rhythmic groups lasting for the duration of a quarter-note pulse



Time Name    Description

Tah            One sound - a one pulse note [*i.e. usually!*].  
(name: quarter-note)



Ta-ti            Two sounds. (name: eighth-notes)  
The two syllables must be equally spaced  
across the duration of the pulse.



Ta-fi-ti-fi      Four sounds. (name: sixteenth-notes)  
Note the logic of this system: the syllables  
'ta' & 'ti' correspond to those in the  
previous example but this time they have  
been sub-divided into two syllables each

1) Tap this steady pulse and sing the time-names on a single pitch:



2) Tap the steady pulse again but sing the time-names which form a rhythm against it:



3) Tapping and singing again, ensure that each rhythmic group lasts for one pulse duration:

