Everything You Need to Know About Intervals in 5th Grade

1. An **interval** is the distance in pitch between two notes.

2. If two notes are played at the same time the interval is **harmonic**.

3. If two notes are played one after the other the interval is **melodic**.

4. The **SIZE** of an interval is measured by the number of letter names contained in the interval, including both the bottom and top notes. Below are examples:

![Interval size example](image)

5. Some “short cuts” to figuring out intervals that come in handy sometimes:
   a. 1s or unisons are the exact same note twice.
   b. 2nds are typically a line note and a space note right next door to each other.
   c. 3rds are typically two line notes or two space notes. 3rds are not right next to each other on the staff.
   d. 4ths are typically a line note and a space note that have an extra space or line in between.
   e. 5ths are typically two line notes or two space notes with an extra line or space in between.
   f. 8ths or octaves are the same note names, just far apart.

6. You not only need to be able to figure out intervals when reading music, but you also need to learn to hear intervals when listening to music. There are “short cuts” you can use to train your ear to hear intervals:
   a. 1s or unisons are the same note.
   b. 2nds are the first two notes in “Silent Night.”
   c. 3rds are the first two notes in the arpeggio. Or, they are the first two notes in the tune “When the Saints Go Marching In.”
   d. 4ths are the first two notes in “Hear Comes the Bride.”
   e. 5ths are the first two notes in “Twinkle, Twinkle.”

7. Want to practice reading or hearing intervals? There is an app for that! Visit this website and use the exercises tab to practice on your own at home:
   www.musictheory.net
Mr. Cosby’s Rules for Counting
Follow these rules all the time. Always tap your foot. Always count aloud.

Rule #1: Always start counting with 1. No matter what- each measure starts with count 1, even if it starts with a rest.

Rule #2: Each measure MUST have the correct number of counts in each measure- no exceptions! Look at the top number in the time signature- this is how many numbers should be in each measure!

Rule #3: Never, ever, EVER skip numbers when counting music. It is NOT okay to count 1 2 4. Another bad example: 1 3 4.

Rule #4: When writing in the counting for 8\textsuperscript{th} notes, the number comes first. Then the + (we say “and”) goes underneath the 2\textsuperscript{nd} 8\textsuperscript{th} note. When counting quarter, half or whole notes you could put the + in if you would like, but it needs to go underneath the numbers- NOT on the next note.

Rule #5: When writing in counting for notes or rests that get longer than 1 count (for example, half notes, whole rests) use the dash sign to indicate that you keep the sound or silence going for longer than 1 count. Example: 1-2-3-4 for a whole note.

Rule #6: To make sure you remember the difference between sound (notes) and silence (rests), use the a parenthesis to indicate rests when writing in counting. Example: (1-2) (3-4) for two half rests.