

Musical glossary

chord	a group of three or more notes played together
coda	ending
composers	people who create music
crotchet	a one-beat note
duration	length (in time)
dynamics	used to describe how loud or soft a note is
echo	a repeated sound
harmony	a combination of notes played at the same time as another tune to give a pleasing effect
improvise	make up as you go along
lyrics	the words to a song
melody	a tune
minim	a two-beat note
notation	the way music is written
ostinato	a repeated phrase
pentatonic scale	a five-note scale
phrase	a group of sounds that make sense
pitch	used to describe how low or high a note is



pulse	a steady beat
quaver	a half-beat note
rehearse	practise
rest	a silent beat
rhythm	a pattern of notes
scale	an arrangement of notes in ascending or descending order
semibreve	a four-beat note
staff	the five parallel lines on which musical notes are written
structure	different ways sounds are organised
sustain	keep a sound going
tempo	speed
texture	different ways sounds are combined
timbre	different characteristics of sounds – playful, spooky, swirling, and so on.
time signature	shows how many beats are in each bar
unison	singing or playing the same tune together

