Diatonic Intervals

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

The most basic way which we identify different intervals is by counting the steps between the two notes.

Specifically, we count scale degrees, but the easiest way to do it is to count lines and spaces on the staff.

When counting, begin with the bottom note as one and count until you reach the top note.

This interval is a seventh!

When counting the lines and spaces, we can safely ignore any accidentals.

This interval is also a seventh... we'll discuss how it's different very soon!

Two notes on the same line or space is called a unison.

That's Latin for "one sound"!

And that's Latin for "eight"!

The distance from a note to the next closest note with the same letter name is called an octave.

And when you swap the two notes (move the lower note up by an octave so it becomes the higher note), that is called inverting the interval.

It's helpful to remember that seconds always invert to sevenths, thirds to sixths, and so forth...

The fact that each of these pairs add up to nine is known to theorists as "the rule of nines."

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**Harmonic interval**

A harmonic interval is simply two notes played simultaneously.

**Melodic interval**

A melodic interval is one note played after the other.

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**2nd** ↔ **7th**

**3rd** ↔ **6th**

**4th** ↔ **5th**

**5th** ↔ **4th**

**6th** ↔ **3rd**

**7th** ↔ **2nd**

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**The Rule of Nines**

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