

Time Signatures




Time signatures break music up into regular, repeated chunks of time – **bars**

They create groups of **beats** that have a natural pattern of strong and weak beats, like the stresses in a sentence

4
4

The top number tells us how many beats there are in a bar

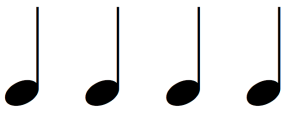

The bottom number tells us what kind of beat it is:

? =  ? =  ? = 

2 **4** **8**

(Americans call minims 'half notes'... crotchets 'quarter notes'... and quavers 'eighth notes')

So, for example:

4 = 
4
2 = 
2

The time signature creates a natural pattern of stronger and weaker beats with beat 1 always being the strongest:

