

Using Context to Read Quickly

Knowing where you is sometimes easier than you think.

There are several tricks for learning to “parse” or figure out a measure of rhythm quickly. Often context will tell you more than math. For example, if you saw a measure like this, you should know instantly how to count the last two notes.



This is because the last two notes are eighth notes, and if the last two notes in a measure (of common time) are eighth notes, they must be counted “four and”.



The same rule applies for the beginning of the measure. If you see two eighth notes, it doesn't matter what else comes in the measure, those two eighth notes are counted “one and”

