

What We Know Already

This past quarter we have learned how to play notes that do not start on the beat. The first example was the dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. The example below shows how that rhythm lines up with the beat in a 4/4 time signature.

You see here that the dotted quarter notes takes up 1 ½ beats, which means the note that follows it starts halfway through the beat, or on the “+” of the beat. The dotted quarter notes is played for two taps of your foot and the next note is played when your foot comes up after the second tap. We say this note is on the “offbeat.”

The next example turns the dotted quarter note rhythm around, putting the eighth note first. Look at how the beat lines up now.

Since the eighth note starts the measure, and it only receives ½ of a beat, the next note that follows it will be on the offbeat, or “+” of the beat. In this example the dotted quarter notes starts when your foot is up and only receives one tap while you are already playing it. Although it is the same length as the note from above, its alignment in the measure places it differently on your foot tap.

## A New Twist

The last “offbeat” rhythm we will learn with quarter notes and eighth notes is called *syncopation*. Technically, syncopation is playing a rhythm that spends the majority of its time on the weak beat of the pulse. You have played patterns that have one note on the offbeat. Below, is an example of syncopation. Fill in the counting below and the down and up arrows above. Notice how the second and third notes of the measure start on the offbeats.

It is important to train your eyes to see syncopation before you play it in order that you are ready to start notes on the offbeats. Circle the measures in the music below that have syncopation in them.

1.

2.

3.

4.

## Counting Syncopation

Place the following items in the exercises below.

1. Write the counts below each exercise
2. Tie together any counts that last more than one beat by underlining them
3. Place the appropriate arrow, down or up, above each note. Notes lasting more than one beat must have more than one arrow.

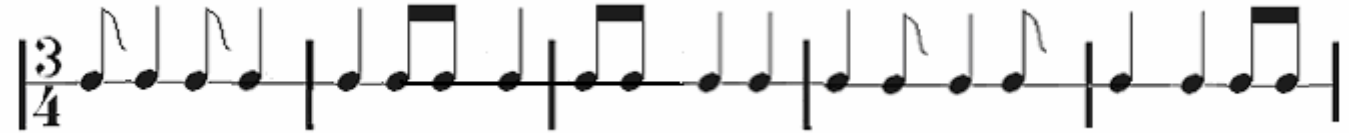
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

