

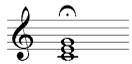
# e-z Theory: Repeats and Pauses

1

## The pause or fermata

Music contains all sorts of signs and symbols to help us interpret composers' needs. Below are some of the more common ones that you will come across in music as you progress.

Sometimes, you will see this mark in a piece of music:



It has two names. The most common is **pause** and it tells us that we should hold the note to which it is attached longer than normal. How long is completely up to the musician, but it is often used to make the music more dramatic.

Its other name is **fermata** (pronounced *fer-mah-tah*).

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## Repeat marks

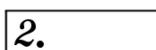
Repeat marks are also common in music. They tell us to repeat the whole section between them. You will find one at the beginning of the music that needs repeating (left) and one at the end (right). Sometimes, if the whole of a piece is going to be repeated from the beginning, the first of the repeat marks is left out.



3

## First- and second-time brackets

These are sometimes used when we have repeat marks. They tell us if a passage that is repeated has a different ending when we come to it a second time.



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Together, our repeat marks and **first-** and **second-time** brackets look like this:

2. We do not play the next-to-last bar on the repeat.

3. We play this one instead.

1. We repeat the whole of the first section when we come to the repeat mark.

The image shows a musical staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a first-time bracket over the first four bars and a second-time bracket over the last two bars. A repeat sign is placed at the end of the first-time section. Arrows point from the text boxes to the corresponding parts of the notation.

3

### A little practice

In the following exercise, place a **pause** mark over every **minim** note.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It contains a sequence of eight minim notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4.

In the following exercise, write **repeat marks** so that the last two bars are repeated.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. It contains a sequence of eight notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4.

In the next exercise, write a **repeat** mark at the end of the penultimate bar. Draw a **first-time bracket** over the fourth bar and a **second-time bracket** over the last.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. It contains a sequence of eight notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4.

In this final exercise, we have two **phrases** that are the same length, and two bars at the end. These last two bars are to be played instead of the second **phrase** when the music repeats. Add **slurs**, **repeat marks** and **first-** and **second-time brackets**. Add a **pause** to the last note.

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps. It contains a sequence of eight notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4.

2

