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## Some Vocabulary You Need

- **Half step:** the sound of one piano key to its neighbouring key without skipping. It is the same as one fret to the next fret on a single guitar string. Also called a **semi tone**.
- **Whole step:** the sound of one piano key to its neighbouring key skipping the one directly next to it. The same as one fret to the next fret on a guitar string skipping the one directly next to it. Also called a **whole tone**.
- **Natural half steps:** the two sets of notes that can be seen clearly as white keys that are next to each other (half steps apart) on a keyboard instrument. E to F and B to C.
- **Natural** ♮ simply put is a note that is a white key on a piano keyboard. (Not sharp ♯ or flat ♭)
- **Sharp** ♯ : Generally speaking is a natural note raised up by a half step. (Semi tone)
- **Flat** ♭ : Generally speaking is a natural note lowered by a half step. (Semi tone)
- **Root Note:** the note that a chord, scale or key takes its letter name from. It is the most important note from an aural standpoint as the tonal centre or theoretical reference point.

- **Tonic:** the primary note of a scale. It is the first and last degree acting as the tonal centre and note of resolution.

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- **The Ionian Major Scale:** any scale which has all whole steps except for between scale degrees 3 to 4 and 7 to 8 which are half steps.
- **Major Interval:** is the interval of distance between the Root and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> note from that Root in a Major (Ionian) Scale. i.e. C to E is a Major Third
- **Major Scale:** is any scale, which has the *major third scale degree*, which is an interval distance of two whole steps or four half steps above the root or tonic.
- **Minor Interval:** is any major interval lowered by a half step.
- **Minor Scale:** is any scale, which has the *minor third scale degree*, which is an interval distance of two and one half whole steps (whole/semi tones) or three half steps (semi tones) above the root or tonic.
- **Diminished Interval:**  
Any major interval lowered by one whole step (two half steps)  
Any minor interval lowered by one half step  
Any perfect Interval lowered by one half step

- **Augmented Interval:**
  - Any major interval raised by one half step
  - Any perfect interval raised by one half step
  - Any minor interval raised by two half steps (one whole step)
  - Any diminished interval raised by three half steps (one and a half whole steps)
- **Perfect Interval:**
  - Unison sound (two or more pitches of equal frequency/pitch are a perfect unison)
  - The interval distance between the Root and 4<sup>th</sup> or the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 8<sup>th</sup> degree octave of the Ionian Scale (perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, perfect 5<sup>th</sup>, perfect 8ve respectively)

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