

Clefs & note names

A stave is five lines and four spaces — but it means nothing until a clef tells you where one fixed note sits. Every other note is counted from there, in strict alphabetical order, A to G and round again.

TREBLE CLEF · G CLEF

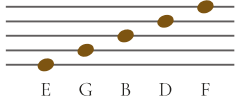
Higher voices, right hand

BASS CLEF · F CLEF

Lower voices, left hand

The curl of the clef wraps the second line from the bottom — that line is G above middle C.

ON THE LINES



E G B D F

Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit.

IN THE SPACES

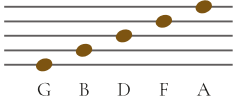


F A C E

They spell FACE.

The two dots sit either side of the fourth line up — that line is F below middle C.

ON THE LINES



G B D F A

Good Boys Deserve Fruit Always.

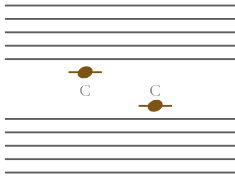
IN THE SPACES



A C E G

All Cows Eat Grass.

WHERE MIDDLE C LIVES



Middle C sits between the two staves of a grand stave, on a short ledger line of its own — one line below the treble stave, one line above the bass. It is the join, and the same note either way.

CLEF	FIXES WHICH NOTE	WHO READS IT
Treble · G	G above middle C, 2nd line	Violin, flute, trumpet, right hand of the piano, most singers.
Bass · F	F below middle C, 4th line	Cello, bassoon, trombone, left hand of the piano, low voices.
Alto · C	Middle C, 3rd line	Viola, almost alone. It keeps the part off ledger lines.

LEDGER LINES

When a note runs off the top or bottom, draw short lines to carry the stave out to it — spaced exactly like the stave, added one at a time. Only draw as many as the note needs.