

Intervals

An interval is the distance between two notes. Count the distance by counting letter names, including the first note and ignoring sharps or flats - so C to G is a 5th. Then its quality (major, minor, perfect, etc.) describes the exact size in semitones.

Interval	Notes from C	Semitones	Quality
Unison	C - C	0	Perfect
2nd	C - Db	1	Minor 2nd
2nd	C - D	2	Major 2nd
3rd	C - Eb	3	Minor 3rd
3rd	C - E	4	Major 3rd
4th	C - F	5	Perfect 4th
Tritone	C - F# / Gb	6	Augmented 4th / Diminished 5th
5th	C - G	7	Perfect 5th
6th	C - Ab	8	Minor 6th
6th	C - A	9	Major 6th
7th	C - Bb	10	Minor 7th
7th	C - B	11	Major 7th
Octave	C - C	12	Perfect 8ve

How quality works

2nds, 3rds, 6ths and 7ths come as major or minor. Unisons, 4ths, 5ths and octaves are perfect. Make a major or perfect interval one semitone wider and it becomes augmented; make it one semitone smaller and it becomes minor (or, from a perfect, diminished).