

Scale Degrees

Every note of a scale has a number, a Roman numeral and a name that describes the job it does. The examples below are shown in C major.

#	Roman	Name	In C	What it means
1	I	Tonic	C	The home note the scale is built on - where music feels at rest.
2	ii	Supertonic	D	'Super' means above; it sits just above the tonic.
3	iii	Mediant	E	Midway between the tonic (1) and the dominant (5).
4	IV	Subdominant	F	'Sub' means below; as far below the tonic as the dominant is above.
5	V	Dominant	G	The strongest note after the tonic - it 'dominates' the music.
6	vi	Submediant	A	Three steps below the tonic, as the mediant is three above.
7	vii	Leading note	B	Pulls strongly upward to the tonic; also called the tendency tone.
8	I	Tonic (octave)	C	The home note again, an octave higher.