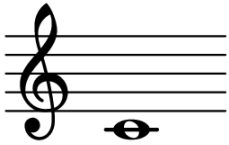
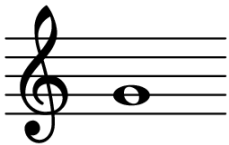


Scale Degree Names & Functions

Music Theory Foundations — Quick Reference

Each note of a scale has a name describing its role, not just its number. These names are used constantly in harmony and composing, so it's worth knowing them by heart.

1 — Tonic 	2 — Supertonic 	3 — Mediant 	4 — Subdominant 
5 — Dominant 	6 — Submediant 	7 — Leading Note 	8 — Tonic 

Why These Names Matter

- The tonic (1) is "home" — the note and chord that feels most at rest.
- The dominant (5) is the strongest pull back toward the tonic — the basis of most cadences.
- The leading note (7) sits just a semitone below the tonic and "leads" the ear strongly upward to it.
- The subdominant (4) is named for sitting the same distance below the tonic as the dominant sits above it.

Key Rules to Remember

- These names apply to both major and minor scales — the position number and name stay the same either way.
- Knowing scale degree names makes it far easier to talk and think about chord progressions later on (e.g. "the dominant chord resolves to the tonic").
- The leading note only pulls strongly toward the tonic when it's a semitone away — in natural minor, degree 7 is a whole tone below the tonic and doesn't function as a true leading note (this is part of why harmonic minor raises it).