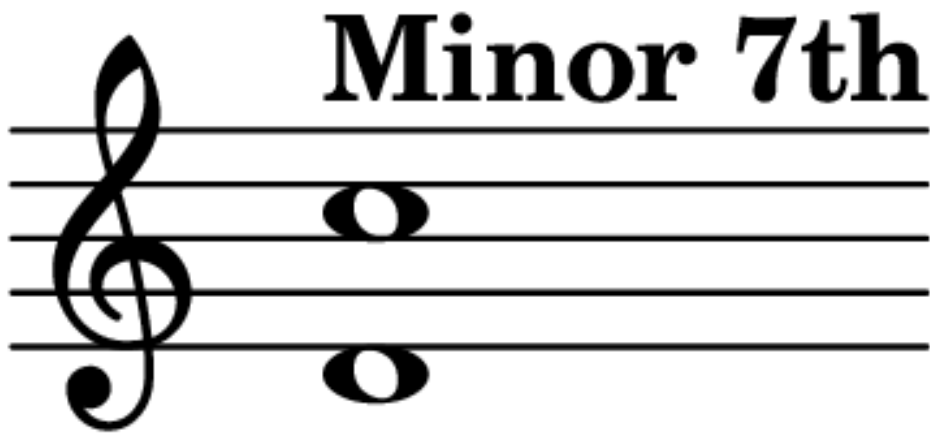
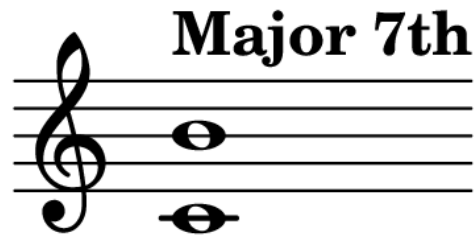
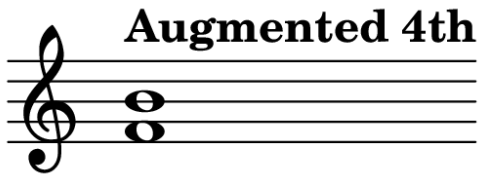
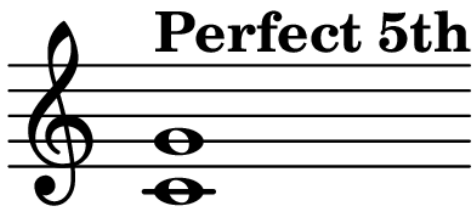


Interval Quality

Music Theory Foundations — Quick Reference

Grade 3 completes the interval picture: alongside major and minor (Grade 2), you now need perfect, diminished, and augmented qualities too. Quality depends on the exact number of semitones, not just the letter-name distance.



Which Intervals Can Be "Perfect"?

Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, and octaves are the "perfect" family — they don't come in major/minor pairs like other intervals do. Instead, they can be perfect, diminished, or augmented.

2nds, 3rds, 6ths, and 7ths are the "major/minor" family — they can be major, minor, diminished, or augmented, but never "perfect."

Key Rules to Remember

- Diminished = one semitone smaller than perfect or minor.
- Augmented = one semitone larger than perfect or major.
- A perfect 5th narrowed by a semitone becomes a diminished 5th; a perfect 4th widened by a semitone becomes an augmented 4th.
- Always check the letter-name number first (Grade 1 method), then work out the quality from the semitone count — the two steps are separate.