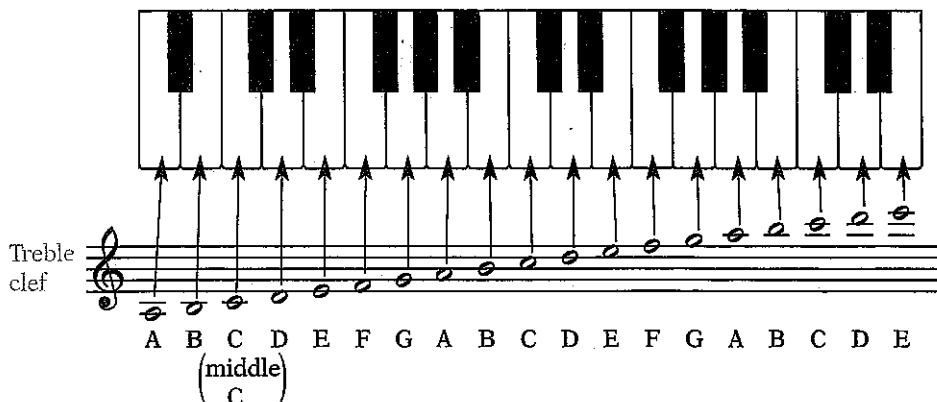


## Lesson 3: Treble clef

In this lesson you will learn about the treble clef, accidentals (sharp, flat, natural), semitones, enharmonic equivalence.

A *clef* is used to identify locations on the staff with specific pitches. The most commonly used clef is the *treble clef*. This symbol, which is derived from a fancy, script G, is also called the *G clef*. It assigns the G above middle C to the second line of the staff. All of the remaining pitches are assigned to the other lines and spaces of the staff.



Use the staff below to practice writing the treble clef. You should write it in one continuous curve. The top of the clef extends just above the staff and the bottom extends just below it. The middle part of the clef circles around the G above middle C.

Trace these treble clefs

Write ten treble clefs



To name the black notes of the keyboard, we have to use *accidentals*—namely, a *sharp sign* (#) which raises a note one *semitone* and a *flat sign* (b), which lowers a note one *semitone*. A semitone is the smallest musical distance. From any key on the keyboard to the nearest adjacent key is a semitone. The black key that lies right between the white notes C and D, for example, can be called either C# (because it lies a semitone above C) or Db (because it lies a semitone below D). Because C# and Db refer to the same pitch, they are said to be *enharmonic equivalents*. On the staff, the accidental is written before the note, but when you say the name of the note, the accidental comes after, as in “C sharp” and “D flat.”

