

key signatures

Stylistic note: Major keys are capitalised (E Major)
 minor keys are lowercase (e minor)

↑ these sharps are the key signature. They dictate which sharps/flats will "always" be played.

ORDER OF SHARPS
 F, C, G, D, A, E, B

if you know where you're starting, F and C, then you can just walk up the rest of the list.

C ← F
 D ← G
 E ← A
 B ← B

ORDER OF FLATS
 B, E, A, D, G, C, F

flats follow the same pattern as sharps but in reverse. they spell out "bead" and "ugcf," like fractional Greatest Common Factors.

WHICH KEY AM I IN? (MAJOR)

SHARPS: find the last sharp (D)
 go a half step up from that sharp (E) - congratulations, that's your key.
 your key will always be the next note name (so if your last sharp is E#, your key is F# Major)

E Maj.

FLATS: find the second to last flat (E)
 congratulations, that's your key
 one flat (Bb) is F Major.

Eb Maj.

WHICH KEY AM I IN? (MINOR)

Take your major key (Ab) and go down 2 note names (F)
 Take that major key again and go down 3 half-steps (semitones) - (F)

Ab Maj. gives you the note name of the minor key
 tells you whether that note is sharp/flat
 (A Major will give you A# minor, etc.)

EXAMPLES

1. which key? (Maj.)
 A#
 up a half step: B
 B is one note name up ✓
 this is B Major

2. which key? (Minor)
 Bb Major
 down two note names: G
 down 3 semitones: G
 this is g minor

CIRCLE OF FIFTHS:

