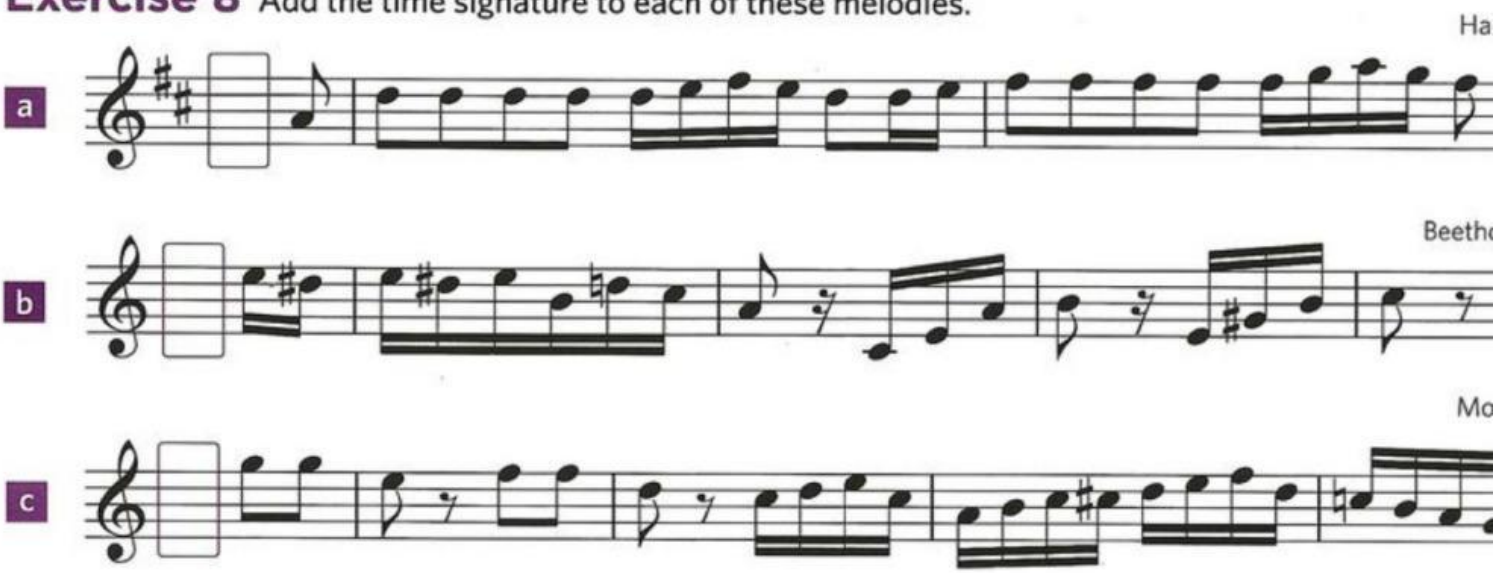
Starting on an upbeat

Not all music starts on the first beat of the bar. Many melodies start on an upbeat – often the last beat of a bar. When this happens, the final bar of the melody is usually shortened so that the first and last bars make one whole bar when added together.

- If a melody in $\frac{4}{4}$ starts on the fourth beat of the bar, the last bar will often have only three beats – the final beat has been 'borrowed' from the last bar and placed at the beginning.
- A melody in $\frac{3}{4}$ that begins on the third beat will often have only two beats in its final bar, and so on.

Exercise 8 Add the time signature to each of these melodies.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Duple, triple and quadruple time

- Time signatures may be described as **duple**, **triple** or **quadruple**, depending on how many beats they have in a bar. This is shown by the top number of a time signature.

  A **duple** time signature has two beats in a bar.

  A **triple** time signature has three beats in a bar.

  A **quadruple** time signature has four beats in a bar.

- Notice that the type of beat (crotchet, quaver, minim) does not matter here – only the number of beats in a bar.

Exercise 9 Tick (✔) **one** box to describe each time signature.

a	$\frac{4}{4}$	☐ duple	☐ triple	☐ quadruple
b	$\frac{3}{4}$	☐ duple	☐ triple	☐ quadruple
c	$\frac{4}{2}$	☐ duple	☐ triple	☐ quadruple
d	$\frac{2}{4}$	☐ duple	☐ triple	☐ quadruple
e	$\frac{3}{2}$	☐ duple	☐ triple	☐ quadruple

LIVEWORKSHEETS