Grouping notes and rests

At Grade 2 we discovered how to group notes and rests to make the music as easy to read as possible. As the rhythms get more varied at Grade 3, the grouping of notes and rests is very important.

Here are a few key points to remember for the following exercises:

- **Beams:** Quavers, semiquavers and demisemiquavers can be beamed together across one or more beats, but avoid beaming them across the middle of a bar (beats 2–3) in $\frac{4}{4}$ time.
- **Rests:** Each whole bar, half bar or whole beat of silence should have its own rest. For silences in the middle of a beat, use a new rest for each half-beat. Whole bars of silence should use a whole-bar rest: 𝄻.
- **Ties:** Avoid using ties where a single note can be written instead.

Exercise 10 Tick (✔) **or** cross (✘) **each** box to show whether the notes are grouped correctly **or** incorrectly.

Smart tip

Check the time signature carefully. Remember that the bottom number of the time signature tells you whether the beat is measured in crotchets, quavers or minims.
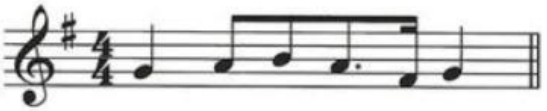
a  ✔

b  ✔

c  ☐

d  ☐

e  ☐

f  ☐

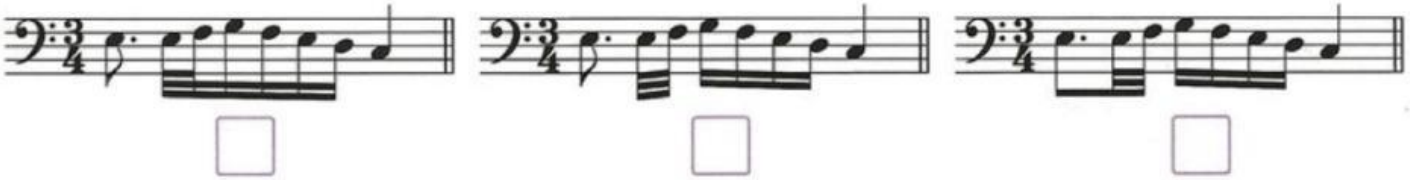
g  ☐

h  ☐
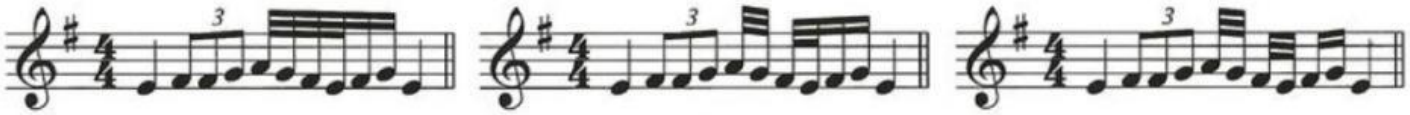
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Exercise 11 Tick (✔) **one** box for each question to show which bar is grouped correctly.
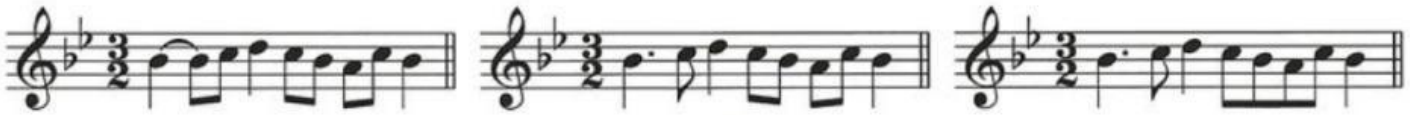
a



b



c



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