The perfect interval

- So far, we've learnt to number intervals by counting up the degrees of the scale from the lower note (the tonic) to the upper note.
- As well as giving them a number, we can also describe intervals as major, minor or perfect.
- The 4th, 5th and 8th/8ve are all **perfect intervals** because the notes are the same in major and minor keys.
- For instance, the 4th degree of E major and E minor is A: it is not raised or lowered in either the major or the minor scale. This means that the interval from the tonic (E) to the 4th degree (A) is a perfect 4th.

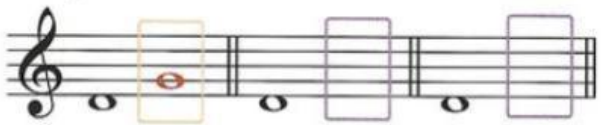

perfect 4th


perfect 5th

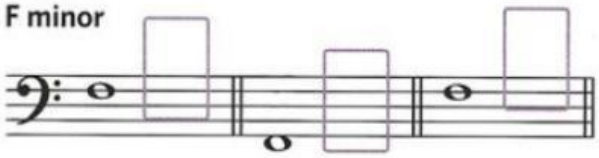

perfect 8th/8ve

Exercise 1 Write **one** note after each tonic to form the named interval. Your note should be **higher** than the given note. Use accidentals if necessary.

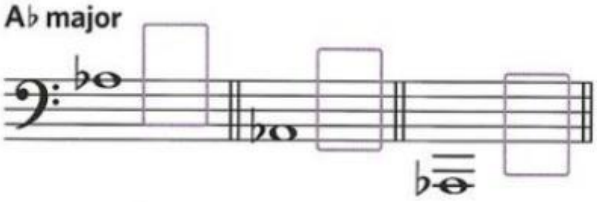
a **D major**


perfect 4th | perfect 5th | perfect 8ve

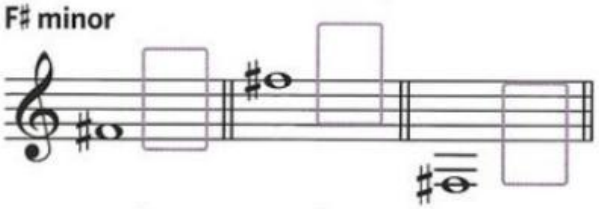
b **F minor**


perfect 4th | perfect 5th | perfect 8ve

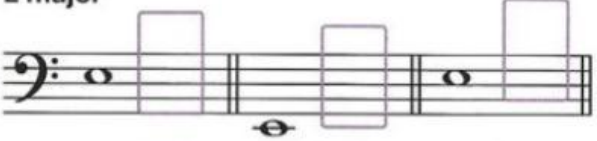
c **A♭ major**


perfect 4th | perfect 5th | perfect 8ve

d **F♯ minor**


perfect 4th | perfect 5th | perfect 8ve

e **E major**


perfect 4th | perfect 5th | perfect 8ve

Remember!

Count up the degrees of the scale from the lower note until you reach the named interval.