



## New time signature: $\frac{4}{8}$

- $\frac{4}{8}$  is an example of **simple quadruple time**: there are four beats in a bar, and each beat is divided into two equal parts.
- $\frac{4}{8}$  time is similar to  $\frac{2}{4}$  time, but there are four quaver beats in a bar instead of two crotchet beats.
- A rhythm in  $\frac{4}{8}$  can be rewritten in  $\frac{4}{4}$  by doubling all of the time values. This is because the time value of the beat has doubled: the  $\frac{1}{8}$  beat (8) becomes a  $\frac{1}{4}$  beat (4).
- A rhythm in  $\frac{4}{8}$  can be rewritten in  $\frac{2}{4}$  by halving the time values.
- In  $\frac{4}{8}$ , notes shorter than a crotchet are beamed together to make up half-bars, but notes should not be beamed across the middle of the bar.

### Smart tip

To help with Exercise 1, write in the beats under the rhythms. Remember that the time value of the beat is indicated by the bottom number of the time signature.

**Exercise 1** Tick (✓) or cross (✗) each box to show whether each rhythm has been correctly or incorrectly rewritten in the new time signature.

a || ||

b || ||

c || ||

d || ||