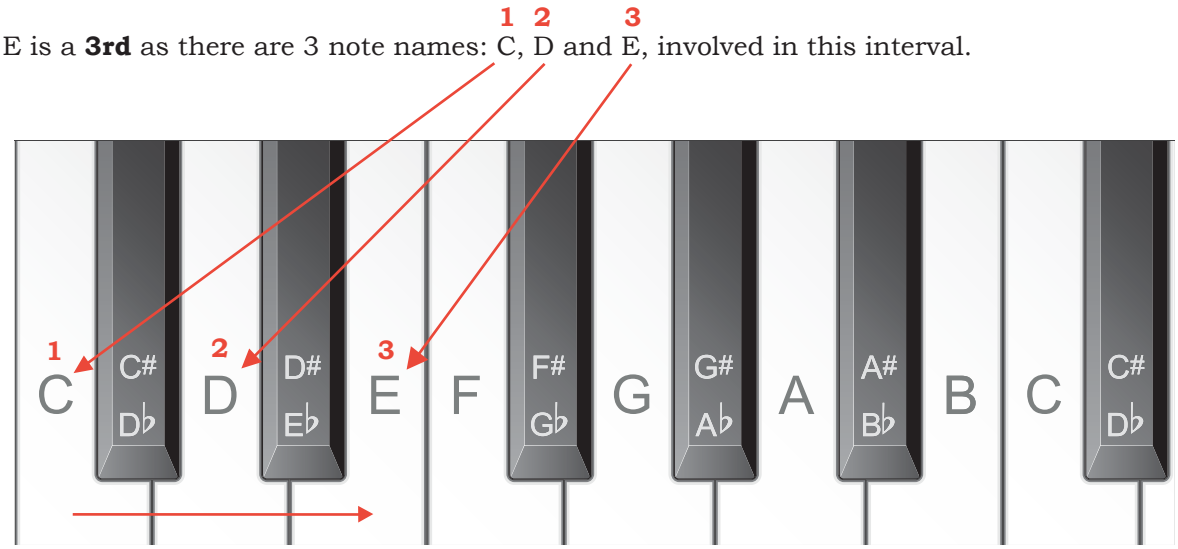
S1 Intervals Information Sheet 1 (Reference: Level 3 Books, page 6)

The Number of an Interval - Counting Intervals

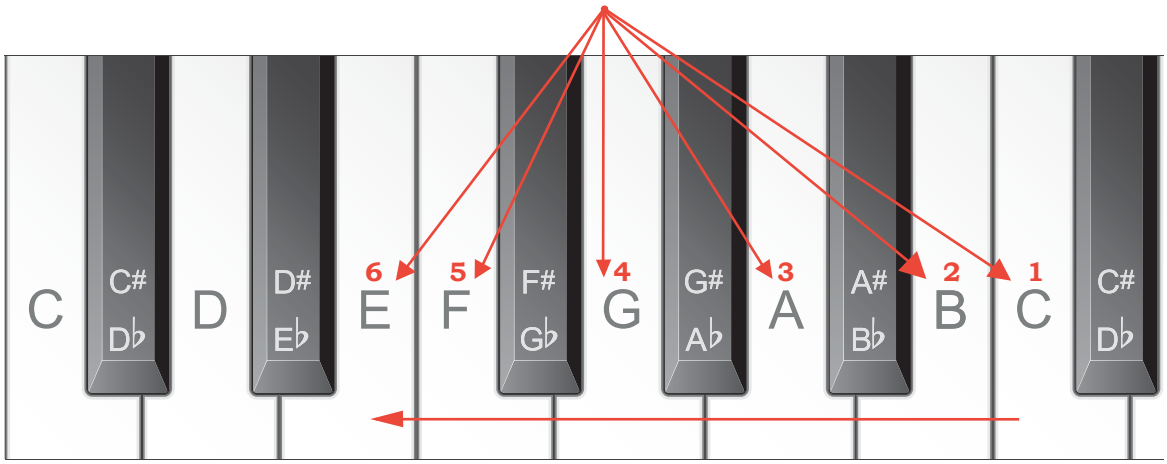
An interval's number is found by counting the letter names involved in that interval.

C **up** to E is a **3rd** as there are 3 note names: C, D and E, involved in this interval.

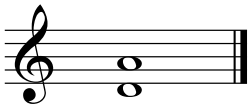


C up to E♭, C♯ up to E and C♯ up to E♭ are also 3rds as they still involve the 3 letter names: C, D and E.

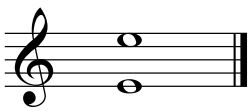
C **down** to E is a **6th** as there are 6 note names: C, B, A, G, F and E, involved in this interval.



Always include the letter names of **both bottom** and **top** notes of an interval in your counting.



is a 5th as there are 5 note names: D, E, F, G and A involved in this interval.



is an 8th as there are 8 note names: E, F, G, A, B, C, D and E involved in this interval. The correct musical name for an 8th is an **Octave** or **8ve**.

S1 Intervals Information Sheet 1 cont. (Reference: Level 3 Books, page 6)

There are many ways of determining the quality of an interval. The version taught on page 6 is the **scale knowledge** version as it based on knowledge of notes in the Major scale.

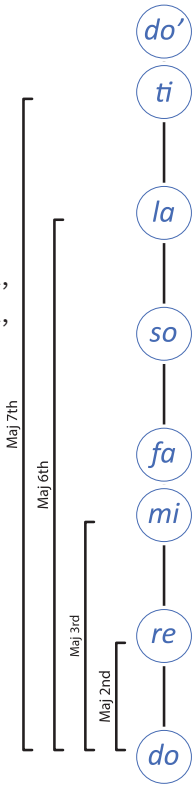
The basis of this method is the understanding that all Major and Perfect Intervals come from the Major scale of the lowest note and all other interval qualities are alterations of these.

This is not the only method that works though. See "Section 2 Intervals Information Sheet 2" for an example of another method of determining an intervals quality.

The Quality of an Interval - Major and Perfect Intervals

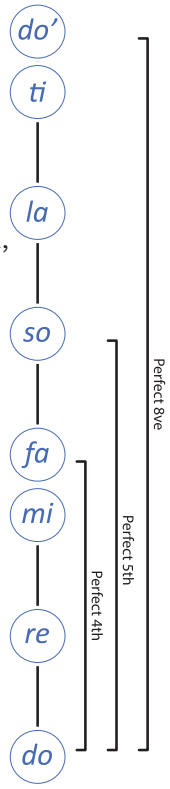
Major intervals are found in by counting up a 2nd, 3rd, 6th or 7th from the lowest note (the tonic) of a Major scale.

This tone ladder:
shows the Major scale
with all Major intervals created
from the bottom, or tonic, note of
this scale.
This tells us that:
do to *re* will **always** be a Major 2nd,
do to *mi* will **always** be a Major 3rd,
do to *la* will **always** be a Major 6th
and
do to *ti* will **always** be a Major 7th.



Perfect intervals are found in by counting up a unison, 4th, 5th or 8ve from the lowest note (the tonic) of a Major scale.

This tone ladder:
shows the Major scale
with all Perfect intervals created from
the bottom, or tonic, note of this scale.
This tells us that:
do to *do* will **always** be a Perfect Unison,
(unison is the correct music name
given to an interval from one note
to the **same** note)
do to *fa* will **always** be a Perfect 4th,
do to *so* will **always** be a Perfect 5th
and
do to *do'* will **always** be a Perfect 8ve.



This scale shows the same intervals in the C Major scale on the staff:

Major & Perfect Intervals in C Major