

ACTIVITY FIVE: *Memorizing One-Beat Sixteenth Note Words*

43 Listen to the following 26-bar example in $\frac{2}{4}$ on Audio track 48 as you read along. Each sixteenth note word will be introduced on the first beat, followed by a quarter rest on beat two, allowing you the opportunity to hear the rhythm word in isolation. Word “zero” (♩) counting “1 +”) will start the engine, and then we’ll cruise through the sixteenth note patterns from there. A “blank” measure will follow for you to quote the one-beat word.

When you sing back the rhythm word, try it two ways. Sing back, “la, la, la,” for the rote experience, simply parroting what you heard. Then try singing it back with the “1 e + a” counting system to indicate the exact details of where the attacks are. Use the “1 e + a” grid written below each word for this approach. I think you’ll find this analytical approach will give you better mileage down the road when reading and transcribing (remember, ear training is 50% brain training!). Each word will be numbered for quick referencing when doing the recognition workout in the following “Two for the Road” activity.

One-beat sixteenth note rhythm words

0. 1 +
 1. 1 e + a
 2. 1 + a
 3. 1 e +
 4. 1 a
 (alternates) 5. 1 e
 6. 1 e a
 7. e + a
 8. + a
 9. e +
 10. e a
 11. e
 12. a

Tip: Notice with patterns 5 and 6, I offer alternate notations, depending on the duration of the pattern. If we consider the duration details, there are alternate ways to notate some of the other patterns as well. In order to keep the list short and manageable, I didn’t include all the possibilities. But when transcribing, it’s important that you consider the duration factor.

Two for the Road

Play the role of the teacher and quiz your partner on recognizing the one-beat sixteenth note rhythm words. Remember, your ability to accurately perform the rhythms is essential and good practice in itself. Have your partner reference the words in Activity Five by numbers to be speedy. Now reverse roles.

ACTIVITY SIX: *Recognizing Two-Beat Sixteenth Note Words*

I’ve created several examples of two-beat sixteenth note rhythm figures by combining two words back to back. Can you recognize these “compound words?”