

## Determining a Major Key

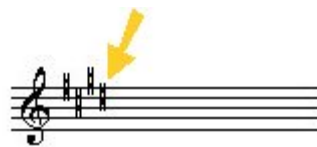
In determining a key signature for any named major key, it's important to know whether the key signature has sharps or flats.

With the exception of the key of **C Major (no sharps or flats)** and **F Major (one flat)**, any "stand-alone" letter is going to be a Major key with sharps: G, D, A, E, B. If a sharp follows the letter name (F#, C#), the key signature will have sharps.

If a flat follows the letter name, the key signature will have flats: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb. Again, the exception is F Major with one flat.

C Major (no sharps or flats)	
Sharps	Flats
G (1)	F (1)
D (2)	Bb (2)
A (3)	Eb (3)
E (4)	Ab (4)
B (5)	Db (5)
F# (6)	Gb (6)
C# (7)	Cb (7)

In order to determine the name of a major key that contains sharps, simply name the note that is a half-step above the last sharp. You can also go up to either the next line or next space. For instance, in the example below, D# is on a line so when you go up to the next space you have E.



Above, the last sharp is D#, so the major key would be E major.

In order to determine the name of a major key that contains flats, simply name the next-to-last flat and that will be the key. Again, the key of F major, with one flat, is the exception.



Above, the next-to-last flat is Ab, which is the name of the major key.