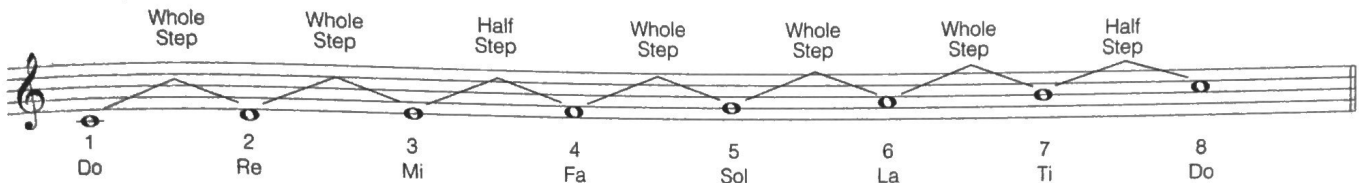


The Major Scale

C Major

A major scale is composed of the following sequence of whole and half steps: whole-whole-half-whole-whole-whole-half. The scale below, C major, begins and ends with the note C, which is its key note. The key note is called the *tonic* and is where the key takes its name from. All major scales have a half step between the third and fourth steps of the scale and the seventh and eighth steps of the scale.

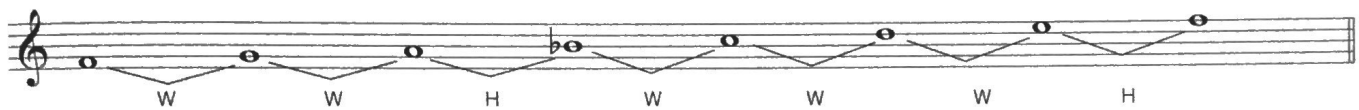
C major scale



Sharps and Flats

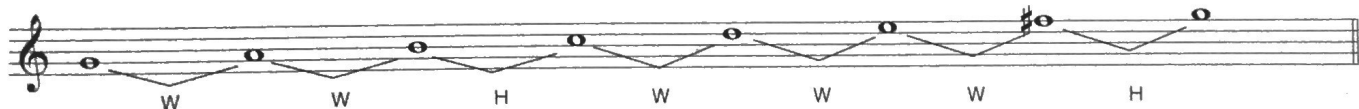
Some scales, and therefore some key signatures, have *sharps* (#) or *flats* (b). The key of C has no sharps or flats. However, following the major scale pattern from on the note F requires the use of one flat (B \flat), to preserve the half step between the third and fourth steps of the scale—from A to B \flat .

F major scale



Similarly, the following scale starting on the note G has an F# because of the pattern's half step between the seventh and eighth steps of the scale.

G major scale



Let's start our sightsinging by singing the eight notes of a C major scale with the numbers 1–7.



After practicing this a few times, move on to the following exercises. Here we'll use note values both in 4/4 and 3/4 time in the keys of C, F, and G.

Sightsinging

Sing through each of the following scales using numbers. For scales 6–15, fill in the key of each scale.

1 Key of C

