

Rhythmic Words

So much for the maths, what we really need to know is how we can make actually reading rhythm easier...

Using words to ‘say’ rhythms is a really good technique to help us to learn and use rhythmic patterns.

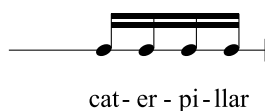
As musicians, this is great news! We can use the everyday rhythms of our language to help us to read musical rhythms just as easily.

One of the best ways to learn rhythmic patterns then is to relate them to everyday words.

Try this...

Say ‘caterpillar’

Caterpillar is an English word equivalent of a four semiquaver rhythm ‘word’ so you have just “said” the rhythm in the example below.



Now try clapping along while you are saying the word then try clapping while you say the word in your head.

This process of saying and clapping rhythms is crucial to working out how rhythms should sound as well as to developing a good ‘sense of rhythm’.

Attaching words to rhythmic patterns like this is a really effective way of learning how rhythms go and a powerful method for remembering them.