

FUNdamentals[™] of Drumming for Kids

Drum Vocabulary Glossary (*Listed in the order of appearance)

- **trap set:** Early version of the modern drum set
- **bass drum, snare drum, tom-toms, hi-hat, ride/crash cymbals:** Basic drum set configuration
- **swing:** Style of dance music popularized by big bands in the 1930's-40's
- **set or kit:** An assembly of multiple drums and cymbals
- **contraption:** The very first drum set
- **goose neck:** A rounded or bent cymbal stand
- **low boy:** The first version of the hi-hat cymbal
- **sock cymbal:** The second version of the hi-hat cymbal
- **double bass:** A drum set with two bass drums
- **tuning:** To tighten and loosen the drum heads in order to get different tones
- **matched grip:** Technique used to hold and manipulate the drumsticks
- **Power V:** A triangle shape created by putting the two tips of the drumsticks together
- **notation:** The language of symbols used to write music
- **staff:** Five lines on which notation is written
- **time-keepers:** Nickname for drummers as they keep time for the band
- **time signatures:** A fraction at the beginning of music telling musicians what speed to play
- **rest:** An interval (or count) of silence in a piece of music
- **quarter notes:** Count: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
- **eighth notes:** Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
- **sixteenth notes:** Count: 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a
- **backbeats:** Most basic drumming uses 1&3 for downbeats and 2&4 for upbeats
- **hand drums:** Primitive percussion instruments meant to be played with the hands
- **rudiment:** A repeated sticking pattern used in percussion music
- **rolls and fills:** Patterns or strokes that can be used as breaks in the beat

- **rights and lefts:** Term used to identify which hand is making a stroke
- **click track:** An audible guide, played on a metronome, that references the proper tempo
- **groove:** The feel of the music and the drummer's way of driving the song
- **independence:** Playing different things, with different limbs, at the same time
- **mental and muscle memory:** Training the mind and body to play music mechanically
- **Three Ts:** Three key factors to remember about drumming: "Time – Tone – and Technique"
- **tom-tom:** British word for a child's toy drum, primitive drums covered in animal skins
- **consolettes:** Hardware clamps invented to attach smaller tom-toms on the bass drum
- **improvise:** To make-up or create music on the spot instead of playing something prewritten
- **swatting at flies:** Term used to describe the stick or brush motions of swing drumming
- **Pea Soup:** The sound that results from playing the hi-hat with lots of attitude
- **bark:** Striking the hi-hat with extra focus on accenting the open sound
- **colors:** A variety of different sounds to come out of the same drum or cymbal
- **Motown:** A style of soul music with a distinct pop influence
- **Latin:** A style of dance music that incorporates multiple Latin American rhythms
- **Disco:** A popular style of dance music from the 1970's relying heavily on repetitive bass
- **Country:** A distinctive American western beat that sometimes resembles a train sound
- **Calypso:** A Caribbean style of music that includes odd or off-beat time signatures
- **cadences:** Special drum-only songs that keep the members of a Marching Band in step
- **dynamics:** The ability to play drums both loudly and softly
- **Forte:** Loud
- **Piano:** Soft