Module 1, Section B: Slides 5 and 6
How do I tell which intervals are a Half step, Whole step, or neither?

In Section B, Slide 5, you can listen to each interval. However, there's no explanation as to which intervals are half steps or whole steps. You need to know this in order to do the activity on Slide 6.

1. Look at slide 5 (Where you click on and listen to the intervals).
2. The first example (top left- Unison) shows two notes played at the same time. There are **no** steps between the notes.
3. The second example (top center- Minor 2nd) is a **half step.** You can see that the white and black keys are right next to each other with no keys in between.
4. The third example (top right- Major 2nd) is a **whole step.** You can see that the two white keys are separated by a black key. Likewise, two black keys could be separated by a white key. Either way, the interval is still a whole step.
5. Look for E and F on the keyboard- they are the two white keys side by side with NO black key in between. E to F is a **half step** – just remember they are the two white keys side-by-side.

So…. An easy way to look at a keyboard and tell if two keys are a whole or half step apart, is to see if there is at least one key between them. If the two keys are neighbors (such as 1 black, 1 white) then there is a half step between them.

How to do "Multiple Choice: Intervals" on Slide 6:

Instead of two red dots, you see the keys circled. In a few of the examples it's hard to tell which keys to look at.

Question 1: In the circle: Two black keys separated by two white keys (D# to F#)
Question 2: In the circle: White key to neighboring black key (F to F#)
Question 3: In the circle: Two white keys side by side (E to F)
Question 4: In the circle: Two black keys separated by one white key (F# to G#)
Question 5: In the circle: White key to the next black key, separated by one white key (E to F#)
Question 6: In the circle: Two white keys separated by one black key (G to A)