Musical Note Drawing: Stem and Flag Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a quarter note with an up-stem. State the stem length you used in note-head heights.

Answer: An oval head on the baseline with a straight up-stem on the right side and no flags. A stem of about three head-heights is acceptable.

Reason: A quarter note has a head and stem but no flag. The up-stem convention places the stem on the right.

Check: Confirm the head is oval, the stem is straight and on the right, and there are zero flags.

Task 2

Draw two eighth notes side by side with up-stems. Keep at least one head-width between them.

Answer: Two oval heads on the same baseline, each with a straight up-stem on the right and one flag. The heads are separated by at least one head-width.

Reason: Each eighth note has one flag. Spacing prevents flags from colliding.

Check: Count one flag per note, check stem side, and confirm the gap between heads is at least one head-width.

Task 3

Draw one sixteenth note with an up-stem. Describe where the second flag goes.

Answer: An oval head with a straight up-stem and two flags. The second flag sits below the first, parallel and evenly spaced, not touching the head.

Reason: A sixteenth note has two flags. Even spacing keeps the note readable.

Check: Count two flags, check they are parallel and do not touch the head or cross the stem.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws an eighth note with the stem on the left and two flags. Identify two errors and state the fixes.

Answer: Error one: stem on the left for an up-stem note; fix by attaching it to the right edge. Error two: two flags for an eighth note; fix by using one flag.

Reason: The up-stem convention places the stem on the right, and an eighth note has one flag.

Check: Check stem side and flag count against the stated convention.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Note head is an oval, wider than tall, centered on the baseline.
- [ ] Stem is straight and attached to the correct side for the chosen convention.
- [ ] Flag count matches the intended note type.
- [ ] Flags do not touch the note head or cross the stem.
- [ ] Spacing keeps neighboring notes from overlapping.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?