The notation of pitch has evolved over the centuries into our modern system that employs a five-line staff and various clefs. The use of different clefs allows us to notate a wide range of pitches from very low piano, tuba, or bass notes to very high piano, flute, or soprano notes. The two most common clefs are treble and bass, which must be mastered before the study of music can really begin.

Eventually, you must know by memory all of the note names associated with the lines and spaces of both of these clefs. As an aid in learning these, it is suggested that you memorize two or three “anchor notes” then count up or down from there. For example, memorize the middle line and the top and bottom lines, and count by letter name up or down to find the pitch. Notes outside of the range of the clefs can be accommodated with ledger lines, which are drawn above or below the staff only when needed for a high or low note.

Accidentals are applied to notes to raise or lower natural, or “white key” pitches. A flat (♭) lowers the pitch by one half step, while a sharp (♯) raises the pitch by one half step. The natural symbol (♮) is used to cancel an accidental that has been previously applied. When accidentals appear on a staff, they are placed on the same line or space of the note they affect. They are also placed immediately to the left of the note-head that is affected. However, when we say the note-name, or write it as a letter name, the accidental comes after the pitch.
Music Fundamentals Primer
Exercises for Lesson 1

I. Label each pitch by letter name.

II. Notate the pitches on the staff (any octave is OK).