

The modern use of solfege

There are two main types of solfege:

1. **Fixed Do**, in which each syllable corresponds to a note-name. This is analogous to the Romance system naming pitches after the solfege syllables, and is used in Romance and Slavic countries, among others.
2. **Movable Do**, or Solfa in which each syllable corresponds to a degree of the scale. This is analogous to the Guidonian practice of giving each degree of the hexachord a solfege name, and is mostly used in Anglo-saxon and Germanic countries.

Movable Do solfege

Movable do is frequently employed in England and America (although many American conservatories use French-style fixed do). Originally it was used throughout continental Europe as well, but in the mid-nineteenth century was phased out by fixed do. In this system, each solfege syllable corresponds, not to a pitch, but to a degree of the scale: the first scale degree of a (major) scale is always sung as do, the second scale degree as re, etc. (For minor keys, see below.) In movable do, a given tune is therefore always solfaged on the same syllables, no matter what key it is in.

The names used for movable do differ slightly from those used for fixed do, because chromatically altered syllables are usually included, and the English names of the syllables are usually used:

Scale Degree	Solfege Name	Pronunciation
1	Do	/doʊ/
Raised 1	Di	/di/
Lowered 2	Ra	/rɑ/
2	Re	/reɪ/
Raised 2	Ri	/ri/
Lowered 3	Me	/meɪ/
3	Mi	/mi/
4	Fa	/fɑ/
Raised 4	Fi	/fi/
Lowered 5	Se	/seɪ/
5	So	/so/
Raised 5	Si	/si/
Lowered 6	Le	/leɪ/
6	La	/lɑ/
Raised 6	Li	/li/
Lowered 7	Te	/teɪ/
7	Ti	/ti/

C major scale



Chromatic *Solfège* Guide

SHARPS

	di	ri		fi	si	li		di	
do	re	mi	fa	so	la	ti	do	re	
	ra	me		se	le	te		ra	

FLATS

Exercise:

- #1 Play Do on your instrument (piano, guitar, etc...) and then sing Re. (maj 2nd) Do the exercise starting from all 12 tones.
- #2 Play Do on your instrument (piano, guitar, etc...) and then sing Mi. (maj 3rd) Do the exercise starting from all 12 tones.
- #3 Play Do on your instrument (piano, guitar, etc...) and then sing Fa. (perf 4th) Do the exercise starting from all 12 tones.
- #5 Play Do on your instrument (piano, guitar, etc...) and then sing So. (perf 5th) Do the exercise starting from all 12 tones.