

Unessential notes

An unessential note is one which is not part of the prevailing harmony. In conventional classical style any note which does not belong to the current chord must fall into one of the following categories:

1. **Auxiliary note** - a note which moves one step away from the harmony note and returns.
Varieties: upper or lower auxiliary note, (UA or LA), chromatic auxiliary note (CLA).

Musical notation in 6/8 time showing auxiliary notes. The treble clef staff contains notes with labels LA, CLA, UA, LA, and LA. The bass clef staff contains notes with labels LA and LA.

2. **Passing note** - a note which moves by step between two different harmony notes.
Varieties: Passing note (on a weak part of the beat) (PN), accented passing note (falling on the beat)(APN), chromatic passing note (CPN).

Musical notation in 4/4 time showing passing notes. The treble clef staff contains notes with labels APN, APN, PN, PN, PN, and CAPN. The bass clef staff contains notes with labels LA, PN, PN, and LA.

3. **Appoggiatura** - an unessential note reached by leap which resolves to a harmony note by step.
Varieties: Appoggiatura (A) - normally falls to resolve, rising appoggiatura (RA);. Either of these can be chromatic (CA and CRA).

Musical notation in 4/4 time showing appoggiatura. The treble clef staff contains notes with labels A, RA, PN, A, APN, A, and Susp. The bass clef staff contains notes with labels PN and CPN.

4. **Changing note** - falls a step from the harmony note, rises a third to the note above, and returns.
Varieties: it may reverse its direction, as in the final bar here.

Musical notation in 4/4 time showing a changing note. The treble clef staff contains notes with a sharp sign. The bass clef staff contains notes with a sharp sign.

5. **Note of anticipation** - comes before its chord.
6. **Suspension** - held or repeated from a previous chord while the chord changes.

Musical notation in 2/4 time showing a note of anticipation and a suspension. The treble clef staff contains notes with labels Antic. and Susp. The bass clef staff contains notes with labels Antic. and Susp.