

Guitar: Accidentals, Half-Steps and Whole Steps Cheat Sheet

= sharp = raises the note by one half step: C → C#, D → D#, F → F#, G → G#, A → A#.
BUT: E → F, and B → C! E# and B# do not exist.

Step 1: Name the note, then name the note again with a # sign next to it:

A guitar tablature diagram for the first string (E). It shows a note 'C' on the 6th fret and a note 'C#' on the 7th fret. The strings are labeled from bottom to top: E, B, G, D, A, E.

Step 2: Write the note itself, then its sharp. So, here we write the C first, then we write the sharp:

A guitar tablature diagram for the first string (E). It shows a note 'C' on the 6th fret and a note '#C' on the 7th fret. The strings are labeled from bottom to top: E, B, G, D, A, E.

Step 3: Write the tab for the first note. For the second note, stay on the same string and add one to the number you just wrote: $1 + 1 = 2$.

A guitar tablature diagram for the first string (E). It shows a note 'C' on the 6th fret and a note '#C' on the 7th fret. Above the notes are tab numbers: '1' above the first note and '2' above the second note. The strings are labeled from bottom to top: E, B, G, D, A, E.

b = flat = lowers the note by one half step: D → Db, E → Eb, G → Gb, A → Ab, B → Bb.
BUT: C → B, and F → E! Cb and Fb do not exist.

Step 1: Name the note, then name the note again with a b sign next to it:

A guitar tablature diagram for the first string (E). It shows a note 'E' on the 6th fret and a note 'Eb' on the 5th fret. The strings are labeled from bottom to top: E, B, G, D, A, E.

Step 2: Write the note itself, then its flat. So, here we write the E first, then we write the flat:

A guitar tablature diagram for the first string (E). It shows a note 'E' on the 6th fret and a note 'Eb' on the 5th fret. The strings are labeled from bottom to top: E, B, G, D, A, E.

Step 3: Write the tab for the first note. For the second note, stay on the same string and subtract one from the number you just wrote: $2 - 1 = 1$.

A guitar tablature diagram for the first string (E). It shows a note 'E' on the 6th fret and a note 'Eb' on the 5th fret. Above the notes are tab numbers: '2' above the first note and '1' above the second note. The strings are labeled from bottom to top: E, B, G, D, A, E.