Music · 30 min · EN

One pulse, several rhythms

Keep a shared pulse and distinguish it from rhythm.

An acoustic guitar and a plain xylophone with mallets on a light surface. · AI-generated illustration

The pulse is a regularly recurring beat. A rhythm organises long and short events and rests. Two groups can perform different rhythms over the same pulse.

Now try it

1. Tap eight steady beats. A second group claps only on the first, third, fifth and seventh beat.

2. Swap roles and invent your own pattern with rests. Start and finish together.

Fictional demo material. Adapt to the learners and the school’s teaching before use.
music · v1 · Prepared demo translation

Your notes and findings

Think it through

Are pulse and rhythm the same?

See a suggested answer

No. The pulse stays regular; a rhythm can contain different durations and rests.

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