hey, it's kids! SPARKY THE MUSIC THEORY DOG!

Q: Dear Sparky:
Since we are supposed to use different approaches for identifying perfect and imperfect intervals, can you summarize them all into one system?

--I.M., Staten Island, NY

A: WOOF!*

TRANSLATION:** THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOWS AN APPROACH FOR ***IDENTIFYING ANY INTERVAL. A SIMILAR APPROACH CAN BE USED WHEN YOU NEED TO ***WRITE*** A PARTICULAR INTERVAL ABOVE OR BELOW A ***GIVEN NOTE:*** FIRST, ADD A NOTE ABOVE OR BELOW THE GIVEN NOTE AT THE CORRECT ***DISTANCE,*** THEN FOLLOW STEPS 2 THROUGH 4 OF THIS CHART TO ***IDENTIFY*** IT. THEN, IF NECESSARY, ***ALTER*** THE NOTE YOU ADDED WITH AN ***ACCIDENTAL*** TO CREATE THE INTERVAL CALLED FOR.

STEP 1:

DETERMINE THE ***DISTANCE*** OF THE INTERVAL BY COUNTING ***LINES*** AND ***SPACES.***

COUNT THE ***BOTTOM NOTE*** AS ***ONE***, AND CONTINUE UNTIL YOU REACH THE ***TOP NOTE.***

STEP 2:

COVER UP ALL ***ACCIDENTALS.***

STEP 3:

DETERMINE THE ***INFLECTION*** OF THE INTERVAL IN FRONT OF YOU (THE ONE WITHOUT ACCIDENTALS!) AS FOLLOWS:

IF IT IS A ***UNISON*** OR ***OCTAVE:***

THE INTERVAL SHOWN IS A ***PERFECT UNISON*** OR ***PERFECT OCTAVE.***

REALLY. IT ***JUST IS.***

IF IT IS A ***FOURTH*** OR ***FIFTH:***

IF THE INTERVAL USES THE NOTES ***F*** AND ***B,*** IT IS EITHER AN ***AUGMENTED FOURTH*** OR A ***DIMINISHED FIFTH.***

OTHERWISE, THE INTERVAL IS ***PERFECT.***

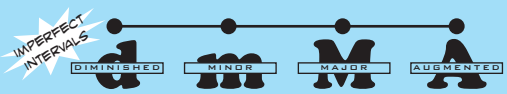
IF IT IS A ***SECOND, THIRD, SIXTH*** OR ***SEVENTH:***

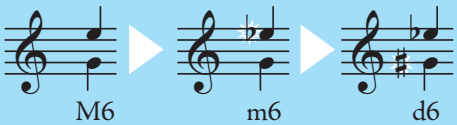
IF THE ***TOP NOTE*** IS IN THE MAJOR KEY OF THE ***BOTTOM NOTE,*** THE INTERVAL IS ***MAJOR.***

IF THE ***BOTTOM NOTE*** IS IN THE MAJOR KEY OF THE ***TOP NOTE,*** THE INTERVAL IS ***MINOR.***

STEP 4:

ADD THE ***ORIGINAL ACCIDENTALS*** BACK, ***ONE AT A TIME,*** AND TRACK HOW THE INTERVAL CHANGES INFLECTION.





REMEMBER: ACCIDENTALS CAN ***NEVER*** AFFECT THE ***DISTANCE*** OF AN INTERVAL... ALL THEY CAN EVER DO IS CHANGE THE ***INFLECTION!***

THIS METHOD MAY SEEM ***COMPLICATED*** AT FIRST, BUT IT BECOMES ***EASIER*** AND ***FASTER*** WITH ***PRACTICE...*** AND IT GIVES YOU THE ***CORRECT ANSWER EVERY TIME!***

DOING STUFF THE SPARKY WAY IS ALWAYS FUN!