

ACCIDENTALS

Sharp (#), Flat (b) and Natural (♮)

Rules of Use

During the course of a piece of music the composer may wish to sharpen and flatten notes which have not already been affected by the key signature. Sharps and flats used in this way are called **ACCIDENTALS**.

For example:



Remember, *an accidental against a note affects every later appearance of that note at the same pitch in the bar* (it must be written again if needed in a different bar). Therefore in the above example there are three G# s.

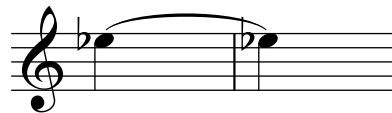
A 'natural' (♮) is also a type of accidental as it may be used to temporarily alter notes that would normally be flats or sharps because of the key signature.



And, as you know, naturals can also simply indicate that a previously altered note is restored to normal. In the following example there is one G# and three G ♮ s.



An accidental stays in force throughout a note held over a bar line



But if the same accidental is required again after the tied note, it must be written in again:

