

# Steps for Successful Sight Reading

1. If you are able, identify the key signature.
2. Identify the note on the page that you think is "DO."
3. Ask for the starting pitch.
4. Sing the entire scale in solfège, or the five note DRMFSMRD to establish the key.
5. Sing DTD and D S(low) D to establish potential pick-up notes.
6. Review the passage from the end and work backwards toward the beginning.
7. Look for the hardest rhythms and the largest jumps first.
8. Say the rhythms on count-singing and sing the jumps in solfège.
9. Observe how the passage uses the scale (in order) versus triads or thirds.
10. Look for any accidentals or altered pitches that are outside the key signature.
11. Talk the solfège in rhythm with the hand signs for the entire passage.
12. Pick a tempo that will allow you to be successful (a slower one). You don't get points for speed.
13. Hum the starting pitch to make sure you are secure in the scale.
14. Count yourself off in the correct tempo and using the right time signature.

