

Delete_e

‘Delete’ is an activity that can be used when learning or practising scales. This activity suits group lessons, ensemble and private lessons.

‘Delete’ develops awareness of scale degrees and aural skills and helps students become more familiar with the notes and degrees of a scale beyond pattern recognition.

Select a key/scale to practise.

Play through the scale a few times for practice and warm-ups.

Choose one note from the scale which will become a rest (a student could choose this). For example, in G minor, the selected note might be C. All C’s are now ‘played’ as a beat of silence. (Careful when doing melodic minors — when you may opt for scale degrees instead if the note will change.)

When the rest is correctly observe you can choose to:

- Select a new note to be ‘deleted’.
- Add a second (then third, etc.) note to be ‘deleted’.
- Include a body percussion sound (such as a stamp) in the rests.
- Include rhythmic variation in selected notes, eg., two quavers on the 3rd degree.
- Have students sing the deleted note instead of play it.

Ask students for their own ideas and try them out!