

"Syn-Co-Pa" or Syncopation

If you say "Syn-Co-Pa" with the notes below while a friend or your teacher taps the pulse (Marked with the arrows) then you will understand Syncopation. Syncopation occurs when a rhythm such as below is accented off the main crotchet beat.

sync - co - pa syn - co - pa syn - co - pa syn - co pa

This rhythm is featured in "One Finger Samba" in your student workbook. Learn to play this piece with the backing track and you will fully understand "Syncopation."

Ask your teacher to play you "Whisky in the Jar" from the Teacher's Listening CD. Recognize & clap the rhythm below. Try playing it on your instrument.

Ask your teacher or a friend to clap the pulse (marked with the arrows) while you sing or play the melody on your instrument.

Mark the Pulse with arrows in the syncopated rhythms below - the first beat in each bar is marked as an example.