

Order of Sharps & Flats

Music

Sharps and flats always arrive in the same order — and the order is one list, backwards.

Sharps: F C G D A E B. Flats: the same seven letters read backwards.

Sharps: F C G D A E B · Flats: B E A D G C F

A signature with 3 sharps

Last sharp G[#], up a semitone is A.

F[#] C[#] G[#] — the key of A

A signature with 2 flats

For flats, the second-to-last flat names the key.

B^b E^b — the key of B^b

A signature with 1 flat

The one exception you memorise.

B^b — the key of F

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× Reading the sharps in whatever order they appear

✓ They are always F C G D A E B, left to right

The order is fixed by the circle of fifths, so four sharps is always F[#] C[#] G[#] D[#].

Father Charles Goes Down And Ends Battle. Read it backwards for the flats.