

Ornaments

Music

Trills, mordents, turns and grace notes — what each squiggle actually asks for.

Conventions vary by period; this is the common modern reading.

Ornament	Symbol	Play
Trill	tr	Rapid alternation with the note above
Mordent	short zigzag	Note, note below, note
Inverted mordent	zigzag	Note, note above, note
Turn	S on its side	Above, note, below, note
Grace note	small note, slashed	As fast as possible before the beat
Appoggiatura	small note, no slash	Takes half the main note's value
Glissando	wavy line	Slide continuously between the two pitches

In Baroque music a trill usually starts on the upper note. In later music it starts on the written one.