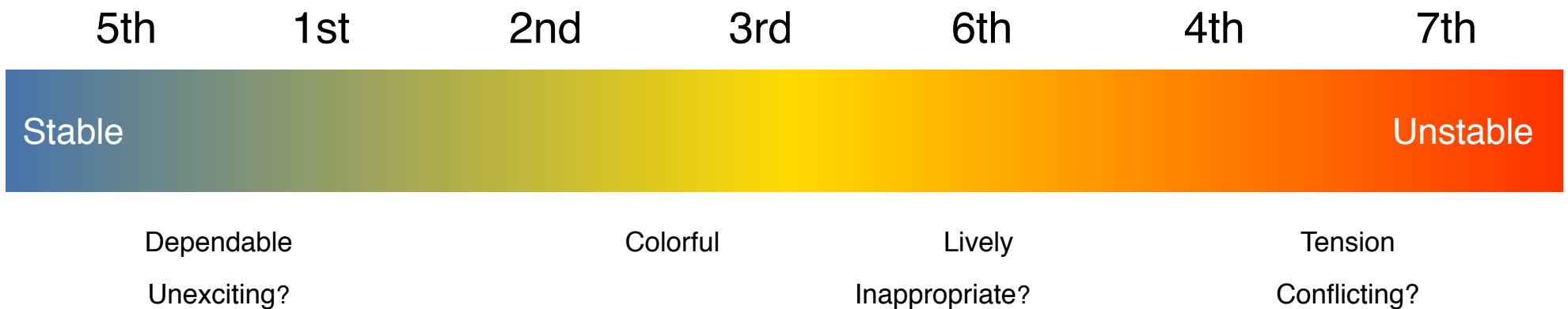




UNDERSTANDING SCALES

Scale note personalities



*Please note this is not meant to be academic or scientific. It's a theoretical way of looking at these notes that's meant to be helpful!



UNDERSTANDING SCALES

Order of Flats and Sharps



TO IDENTIFY A SONG'S KEY SIGNATURE (WHICH SHARPS OR FLATS TO USE)...

Listen for a song's "home note." It's the 1st note of the scale.

- Is it a flat? Use the flats from the order of flats up to the home note, plus one more flat.
 - Example: home note is E-flat, you'll use B- and E-flat, plus A-flat, in your scale
- Is it C? Your scale will have all naturals.
- Is it F? Your scale will have one flat, B-flat.
- Is it a natural other than C or F? Go down one half-step to the sharp below. Use the sharps from the order of sharps up to and including that sharp.
 - Example: home note is A, go down one half-step to the G-sharp, you'll use F-, C-, and G-sharp in your scale.

*There is one anomaly that doesn't quite fit this explanation. If your home note is F-sharp, you could alternately think of it as G-flat and use that scale, or apply the rules for sharps. You would use the sharps up to and including E-sharp, so every note would be sharp except B.

TO COMPOSE THE SCALE...

Go up the musical alphabet - A through G - and apply the flats or sharps from the key signature.



UNDERSTANDING SCALES

Cheat sheet

Scale	1st note	2nd note	3rd note	4th note	5th note	6th note	7th note
C major	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
D	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
D major	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
E	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
E major	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
F major	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
G	G	A	B	C	D	E	F
G major	G	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
A major	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
B	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
B major	B	C	D	E	F	G	A