

Verbal Association At a Glance

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Definition: A level of discrimination learning. At this level of learning, students learn a vocabulary of tonal patterns using tonal syllables and a vocabulary of rhythm patterns using rhythm syllables. The same patterns are taught at the aural/oral and verbal association levels. Proper names of classifications and functions are also learned at the verbal association level. (Gordon, 2012, p. 415).

Purpose:

- To name and recognize, with tonal syllables and rhythm syllables, familiar tonal patterns and rhythm patterns in various tonalities and meters as well as pattern functions, such as tonic and dominant.
- Allows students to categorize patterns and reinforce audiation skill of patterns learned at the Aural/Oral level.

Syllables Used at the Verbal Association level of learning:

Tonal Syllables	Rhythm Syllables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solfège• DO based major, LA based minor• Moveable DO/LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on beat function• Defines Macrobeats/microbeats<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Duple Meter: DU DE○ Triple Meter: DU DA DI• Regardless of meter Macrobeat is always DU• Divisions in both Duple and Triple are TA

What does learning at the Verbal Association level look like?

- Students start to use proper names and labels to explain what they are hearing: duple, triple, macrobeat, microbeat, major, minor, tonic, dominant, etc.
- Students retain and recall patterns, tonalities, and meters for higher levels of learning
- Reinforce familiar patterns heard at the Aural/Oral level by performing them solo and in ensemble.
- Engage in “bound” improvisation activities.

Stages of Audiation at Verbal Association

Stage 1 – Momentary retention

Stage 2 – Imitating and audiating tonal patterns and rhythm patterns and recognizing and identifying a tonal center and macrobeats

Stage 3 – Establishing objective or subjective tonality and meter

Stage 4 – Retaining in audiation tonal patterns and rhythm patterns that have been organized

Stage 5 – Recalling tonal patterns and rhythm patterns organized and audiated in other music

Types of Audiation at Verbal Association

Type 1 – Listening to familiar or unfamiliar music

Type 4 – Recalling and performing familiar music from memory