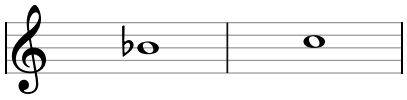
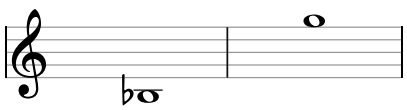
Instrument Transposition Chart

Grouped by key — each row shows the note a player reads to sound one concert B♭.

		SOUNDING	WRITTEN	
B♭ INSTRUMENTS	Clarinet in B♭			**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Soprano Saxophone			**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Trumpet in B♭			**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Tenor Saxophone			**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 9th lower
	Bass Clarinet in B♭			**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 9th lower
E♭ INSTRUMENTS	Clarinet in E♭			**Key: E♭** Sounds a minor 3rd **higher**
	Alto Saxophone			**Key: E♭** Sounds a major 6th lower
	Baritone Saxophone			**Key: E♭** Sounds a major 13th lower
F INSTRUMENTS	English Horn			**Key: F** Sounds a perfect 5th lower
	Horn in F			**Key: F** Sounds a perfect 5th lower

WORKING THE CHART

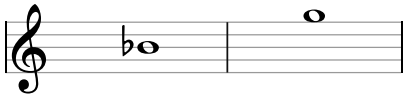
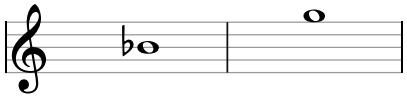
READING A PART Move the written note **down** by the interval in its row.

WRITING A PART Move concert pitch **up** by the same interval. To sound a concert C, write D for trumpet, A for alto sax, G for horn.

THE EXCEPTION E♭ clarinet sounds **higher** — reverse both directions above.

PRACTICE THIS FREE
Transposition drills, concert-pitch quizzes and instrument flashcards — no sign-up.
music-theory-practice.com/transposition

INSTRUMENT TRANSPOSITION CHART

		SOUNDING / WRITTEN	
A AND G INSTRUMENTS	Clarinet in A		**Key: A** Sounds a minor 3rd lower
	Alto Flute		**Key: G** Sounds a perfect 4th lower
MORE B♭ INSTRUMENTS	Cornet · Flugelhorn		**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Euphonium *(treble clef)*		**Key: B♭** Sounds a major 9th lower
MORE E♭ INSTRUMENTS	Trumpet in E♭		**Key: E♭** Sounds a minor 3rd **higher**
	Alto Horn · Tenor Horn		**Key: E♭** Sounds a major 6th lower
	Horn in E♭		**Key: E♭** Sounds a major 6th lower
C INSTRUMENTS	Piccolo		**Key: C** Sounds an octave **higher**
	Guitar		**Key: C** Sounds an octave lower
	Double Bass		**Key: C** Sounds an octave lower

WHY C INSTRUMENTS TRANSPOSE AT ALL

SOUNDING HIGHER — **Piccolo** and **xylophone** sound an octave above the printed note, **glockenspiel** two octaves, **celesta** one.

SOUNDING LOWER — **Guitar**, **double bass** and **contrabassoon** sound an octave below.

THE REASON — Printing these at true pitch would bury them in ledger lines. The octave is a legibility convention, not something the player thinks about.

FREE TO PRINT AND COPY FOR YOUR STUDENTS
Drills, printable worksheets and full curricula — scan or visit the site.
music-theory-practice.com/transposition