



What Ear Training Exercises Can and Cannot Measure

<https://musicreason.com/resources/what-ear-training-exercises-can-and-cannot-measure/> · Last updated 2026-09-06

An ear-training score measures how you performed on one generated task, under one set of conditions, at one moment. It is not a measurement of innate talent, a diagnosis of your hearing, or a fixed statement about your musical identity, no matter how the result feels.

Conditions change difficulty independent of skill

[Interval Ear Trainer](#) and [Chord Quality Ear Trainer](#) both vary tone color, octave placement, and register between prompts. A missed interval in an unfamiliar voicing or an extreme register reflects that specific, harder condition, not a general absence of "an ear" for music.

A prompt is generated and scored, not diagnosed

[Scale Degree Ear Trainer](#) and [Progression Ear Trainer](#) generate a specific, bounded prompt and score your answer against it. Neither tool, nor any other on this site, makes a claim about perfect pitch, a hearing condition, or any kind of certification.

Replay and feedback are part of fair measurement

[Melody Imitation Trainer](#) and [Pitch Memory Trainer](#) let you replay a prompt and show you specifically what you got right or wrong, which is what makes an attempt a genuine practice repetition rather than a one-shot guess with no way to learn from it.

No score is saved beyond your current session

Ear-training results are not attached to an account, a profile, or a persistent history. They exist only for the current browser session, matching the same local-only default described in [Deliberate Practice with Musical Feedback](#).

Frequently asked questions

Does missing an interval on Interval Ear Trainer mean I lack "an ear" for music?

No. It means you missed that specific interval, in that voicing, register, and timbre, on that attempt. Tone color, octave placement, and unfamiliarity with a specific interval all affect difficulty independent of general musicality.

Can any MusicReason ear-training tool diagnose perfect pitch or a hearing condition?

No. These are practice drills with a scored task, not a diagnostic or certification instrument, and none of them make a claim about your hearing, aptitude, or a formal pitch classification.

Does the site keep a permanent record of my ear-training scores?

No, matching Deliberate Practice with Musical Feedback: scores are session-local and are not saved to an account, a leaderboard, or a server.

Where this shows up

EAR TRAINING

Interval Ear Trainer

EAR TRAINING

Chord Quality Ear Trainer

EAR TRAINING

Scale Degree Ear Trainer

EAR TRAINING

Melody Imitation Trainer

EAR TRAINING

Pitch Memory Trainer

EAR TRAINING

Progression Ear Trainer