

# ***Writing the Key Signature When Given the Name of the Key***

Memorize the order of sharps:  
**F C G D A E B**

Memorize the order of flats:  
**B E A D G C F**

Memorize the key signature for C Major  
-No sharps or flats

Memorize the key signature for F Major  
-B flat (only one flat)

## **Sharp keys:**

- Most sharp keys do not have a sharp in they're name
- Go down  $\frac{1}{2}$  step from the name of the key, this tells you what the last sharp in the key signature will be
- Write the order of sharps in the key signature up to and including the last sharp

Example:

You are asked to write the key signature for E Major

- Go down  $\frac{1}{2}$  step from E
- This gives you the note D#
- Go through the order of sharps and include all the sharps, in order, up to D#

The key of E Major will have F#, C#, G#, D# in the key signature

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## **Flat Keys:**

- The name of the key is the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last flat in the key signature
- Write the order of flats up to and one past the name of the key

Example:

- You are asked to write the key signature for D flat major
- Go through the order of flats and include all the flats up to and one past D flat

The key of D flat major will have B flat, E flat, A flat, D flat, and G flat in the key signature

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