

## Staccato

Notes in the second part to “Sweet” are much shorter and more separated. The opposite of legato (long) is *staccato* (short). Staccato notes are indicated with a dot (.). To play staccato, attack the note with the same T tongue motion, but then end it quickly, as in the word “tut.” The attack is actually a release of the air pressure. The tongue releases the air, with the consonant T starting and stopping the sound.

Staccato notes are not held for their full rhythmic value, and there should be space between notes. Staccato quarter notes are written like this:



The notes sound much shorter than quarter notes—more like sixteenths. Here is the same line written as sixteenth notes. As you can see, the dots are much easier to read than the sixteenth-note flags with dotted eighth-note rests.



Practice staccato articulations with the recording, one note per beat. Only breathe every two measures, where you see a breath mark. Though the notes are short, you should still think about phrasing, and breathe between phrases rather than between notes. Keep your air moving.

### LISTEN 4 PLAY

