The Dot

A dot found after a note head will add rhythmic value to the note. Like the tie, the dot has an additive function. A dot will add 1/2 the rhythmic value of the note it follows. For example, when measure #1 is played correctly it will sound like measure #2.

![Music notation](image)

Notice how the dot after the quarter note added 1/2 a quarter note, which is an eighth note, to the rhythmic value.

Did you go through your check list before reading etude #1 and #2? If not, go back and do so.

Before you begin with the following etudes, go through the check list!

What is the clef?
What is the time signature?
What is the key signature?
What is the tempo marking?
What is the highest note?
What is the lowest note?
What position is the best to play in?
Is the music mainly scales or arpeggios?

Now that we have discussed phrasing, also decide what style the etude is in and try to phrase it in that style. The check list offers clues to help you in determining the style! The tempo marking is an important piece of information when deciding on phrasing. Another is specific rhythms and groupings, which will lend themselves to specific types of phrasing. Become aware of these natural tendencies as you develop your rhythmic vocabulary so you can draw upon them when sight reading!