



The Most Common Non-Common Time Signatures

I hope you excuse the pun in the title. "Common time" is a term used to refer to 4/4, which is the most common time signature. This sheet focuses on the most common, non-4/4 time signatures, giving you some drum beat and fill examples.

The **5/4 time signature** is similar to 4/4 except there are 5 beats in the measure instead of 4.

1

2

3

The **6/4 time signature** is also similar to 4/4 except there are 6 beats in the measure instead of 4.

4

5

The **6/8 time signature** can feel strange at first. In this time signature, there are 6 beats per measure, but the quarter note no longer takes up one of those beats. An eighth note takes up a whole beat, and a sixteenth-note takes up half a beat (like an eighth note in common time).

6

7

8

9

The **12/8 time signature** is similar to 6/8 except there are 12 beats in the measure instead of 6.

10

11