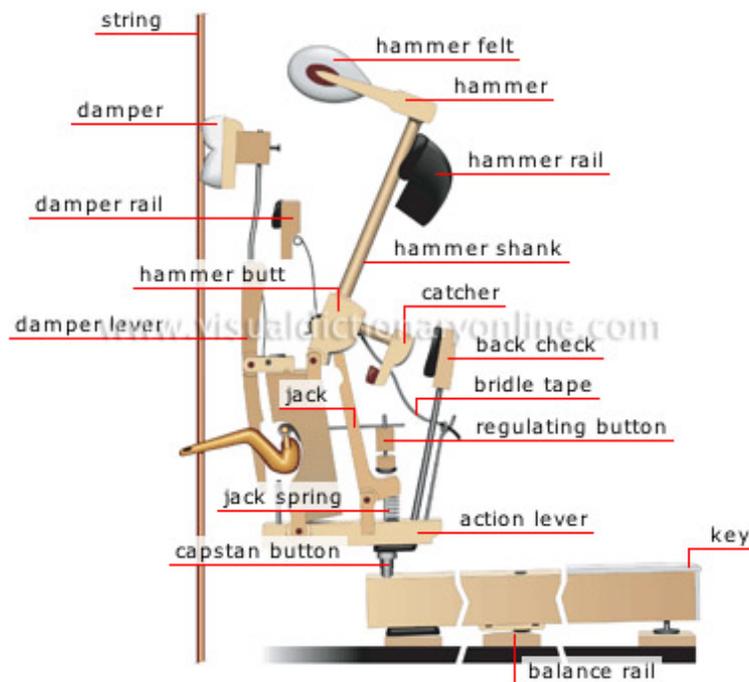


Types of Pianos



Acoustic Piano have **Strings**. When you press down a Key the Hammers are activated and hit the Strings. This creates a vibration that we call a **Sound**. A sound is something pleasant we can hear. A **Noise** is something we can hear that is usually unpleasant.



Above you see how the linkage between the key and the hammer works. What you need to know are the meaning of the words: **Hammer, String, Damper** and **Key**. The **Dampers** are actually Stoppers. They stop the vibration of the strings when the key is released.

The right Pedal is called the **Damper Pedal** because when push it down, it takes all the dampers of the strings which makes the piano sound fuller.

The word **Piano** is a short form from the original word **Pianoforte**. It means an instrument that can be played *piano* (soft) or *forte* (loud) or everything in between.

The hammer pianoforte was invented by the **Italian** instrument builder **Bartolomeo Cristofori** around 1700. Before that time there were other keyboard instruments like the **Harpsichord**. However the strings were "plucked" and not hammered. Therefore the produced sound could not be changed from piano to forte.

This is a Harpsichord.



Electronic Digital Pianos

An electronic keyboard produces the sound not with strings but through electronic circuits and loudspeakers. Since modern circuits use stored sound in memory the term **Digital Piano** is sometimes used.

The word **Keyboard** has actually two meanings: 1) The totality of all the keys (white and black). 2) A portable Electronic Piano.

Be sure to be able to distinguish those two definitions.

The keyboard of a Grand Piano or Upright has **88 keys**. Electronic pianos come with 49, 61, 76 or 88 keys. 61 keys should be the minimum to be able to play a regular piece. Better would be the full tonal range of 88 keys.



Digital Piano



Keyboard (Definition 2)