

## Pianos vs. Digital Pianos vs. Keyboards: How to Choose the Right Instrument For You

Type	Grand Piano (Acoustic)	Upright Piano (Acoustic)	Digital Piano	Electronic Keyboard
<b>Cost</b>	About \$10,000 and up	About \$2,000 - \$10,000	About \$1,000 - \$5,000	About \$200 - \$1,000
<b>The Goods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can help develop a student's technique the correct way from the very start</li> <li>• Allows for more musical expression - full, balanced tone, range of dynamics, and three pedals help produce a full range of sounds</li> <li>• Weighted keys are sensitive to the pianist's touch</li> <li>• Adds ambiance in the home and can act as a piece of furniture or art</li> <li>• Retains their value longer than upright pianos or digital keyboards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less expensive than a grand piano</li> <li>• Still has an acoustic piano action (hammers and strings), so allows for varied tone and touch (although to a lesser extent than a grand piano)</li> <li>• Takes up less space than a grand piano</li> <li>• Some offer "mute" or "practice-rail" pedals so as not to disturb roommates/neighbors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less expensive than acoustic pianos</li> <li>• Looks like an upright piano (with a base and bench) and sounds like a real piano</li> <li>• Has full range of keys (88 keys) and a damper pedal</li> <li>• Lighter and easier to move</li> <li>• Does not need to be tuned</li> <li>• Recording/MIDI capability and some have various instrument sounds</li> <li>• Can use earphones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Least expensive</li> <li>• Light, portable, and easy to transport</li> <li>• Takes up less space</li> <li>• Does not need to be tuned</li> <li>• Recording/MIDI capability and most come with various instrument sounds and accompanying beats</li> <li>• Can use earphones</li> </ul>
<b>The Bads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most expensive option</li> <li>• Difficult to move (requires at least 2 professional movers)</li> <li>• Takes up the most space out of all options</li> <li>• Costs money to maintain and tune</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slower action than a grand piano (since the strings are vertical and gravity does not work in its favor)</li> <li>• Can lose their value quicker than grand pianos</li> <li>• Difficult to move (requires professional movers)</li> <li>• Costs money to maintain and tune</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose their value fairly quickly</li> <li>• Can be difficult to repair</li> <li>• Although keys are weighted, it still does not feel exactly like a acoustic piano</li> <li>• Students who learn on digital pianos sometimes do not develop as strong technique as those who learned on acoustic pianos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keyboard, stand, bench and pedal need to be purchased separately</li> <li>• Can be difficult to repair</li> <li>• Some have less than 88 keys (smaller keyboards with 61 or 76 keys are common since they are more affordable)</li> <li>• Some have smaller size keys</li> <li>• Not recommended for intermediate or advanced students</li> <li>• Students who learn on keyboards often do not develop as strong technique as those who learned on acoustic pianos</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended for Those Who:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can afford a grand piano</li> <li>• Wish to take piano study seriously</li> <li>• Are willing to make a long-term investment</li> <li>• Have space in their home for a grand piano</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not have space for a grand piano</li> <li>• Wish to take piano study seriously</li> <li>• Desire an acoustic piano action but something more affordable than a grand piano</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wish to have a key action similar to an acoustic piano</li> <li>• Want a more affordable option than an acoustic piano</li> <li>• Have small living quarters</li> <li>• Are casual learners (beginner or intermediate)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wish to "test" out learning the piano without breaking the bank</li> <li>• Want a more affordable option than a digital or acoustic piano</li> <li>• Have small living quarters</li> <li>• Are casual learners (beginners)</li> </ul>