

Call Changes

In call changes, a conductor will alter the order of the bells in the change by calling them into different positions.

There are a few methods of doing this and you will find that a tower generally uses only one way. This sheet considers the “calling up” method.

Call changes are a good way to ring the musical changes like Queen’s, Tittums, Whittington’s etc.

When thinking about call changes you should try to be aware of the position or place you are in the change, the bell you’re following and (ultimately) the bell that that bell is following.

e.g.

Rounds: 1 2 3 4 5 6 Bell 4 is currently in 4ths place (the 4th bell to strike in the change)
It is following bell 3 and bell 3 is following bell 2

Queen’s: 1 3 5 2 4 6 Bell 4 is now in 5ths place (the 5th bell to strike in the change)
It is following bell 2 and bell 2 is following bell 5

The rule in call changes is that you cannot make a bell move more than one place at a time.

A bell can be called one place closer to the front of the change (nearer to the lead) or one place closer to the back of the change.





When a call is made, the bells will change their place at the next handstroke.














A call will tell the ringers which bell should change place by telling it who it should start to follow.

It involves moving two bells – one bell moves one place further to the back and the other moves one place further to the front.

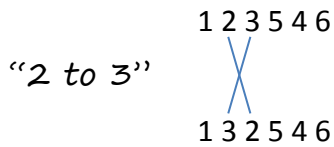
In the calling up method, the first bell in the call will be called one place further up to the back and so will have to ring slightly slower at the next handstroke, the second bell will have to move one place down nearer the front and will have to ring slightly quicker at the next handstroke to get into the new position.

e.g.

“4 to 5”
1 2 3 4 5 6
 X
1 2 3 5 4 6
this tells the ringer of 4 that they now need to start following 5
4 moves one place closer to the back and 5 moves one place closer to the front.

Bells 4 and 5 have swapped places 4 used to be following 3 but has been called to follow 5
 5 used to be following 4 but has to swap with 4 and follow the bell
 4 used to be following
 6 used to be following 5 but 4 has just been called to follow 5
 instead so 6 has to follow 4

e.g. 2



this tells the ringer of 🛎️2 that they now need to start following 🛎️3
 🛎️2 moves one place closer to the back and 🛎️3 moves one place closer to the front.

Bells 2 and 3 have swapped places 🛎️2 used to be following 🛎️1 but has been called to follow 🛎️3
 🛎️3 used to be following 🛎️2 but has to swap with 🛎️2 and follow the bell
 🛎️2 used to be following
 🛎️5 used to be following 🛎️3 but 🛎️2 has just been called to follow 🛎️3
 instead so 🛎️5 has to follow 🛎️2

In practice, you will not have to think about all the implications of every change but only the ones that will affect you. You will know if a call affects you because you will hear your number being called or you will hear the number of the bell you are following being called.

Exercise 1

Look at these series of calls.

Write the new changes that result in each of the calls.

Think about whether the bells have to move one place closer to the back or one place closer to the front

call...	1	2	3	4	5	6	
2 to 3	1	3	2	4	5	6	🛎️2 called to follow 🛎️3 - 🛎️4 now has to follow 🛎️2, 🛎️3 has to follow 🛎️1
4 to 5							
2 to 5							
5 to 2							
3 to 2							
5 to 4							

these calls should get you back to rounds

Exercise 2

Look at these changes and work out what the calls would be

call...	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>3 to 4</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1	2	4	3	5	6
	1	4	2	3	5	6
	1	4	2	5	3	6
	1	2	4	5	3	6
	1	2	4	3	5	6
	1	2	3	4	5	6

Exercise 3

Starting with rounds, work out a series of calls to get the change into Whittington's i.e. 5 3 1 2 4 6

Remember you can only swap one pair of bells at a time and only move a bell one place at a time

You might be able to get into Whittington's in as little as six calls.

call...	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5	3	1	2	4	6

Ringing call changes on higher numbers of bells follows exactly the same rules.

Remember to think of the bell you are ringing, the bell you are following and the one that that one is following

Exercise 4

Work out the changes that will result given the following calls

call...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>2 to 3</i>										
<i>1 to 3</i>										
<i>1 to 2</i>										
<i>5 to 6</i>										
<i>4 to 6</i>										
<i>4 to 5</i>										
<i>8 to 9</i>										
<i>7 to 9</i>										
<i>7 to 8</i>	3	2	1	6	5	4	9	8	7	10