"The Dotted Quarter Note"

The "dot" lengthens the note by one half of its original time value.

So: $\frac{1}{4} = 2$ beats  $\frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{3}{2} = 3$ beats

$\frac{1}{8} = 1$ beat  $\frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{3}{2} = 1$ and 1/2 beats

The dotted quarter note is equal to the time value of a quarter and an eighth note tied together. The more convenient way of writing this rhythm of course is the dotted quarter note because you only have to use one note symbol.

The dotted quarter note followed by the single eighth note is the most common form of syncopation in music. You can experience the rhythm of the dotted-quarter-eighth in the very first two notes of Mary Had A Little Lamb or perhaps the 2nd and 3rd notes of O’ Canada.

Practice tapping your foot on the beat while counting out loud. Notice that your foot will tap two times during the dotted quarter note. The first time is at the start of the note and then again on the second beat while the dotted quarter is being held.