

An Introduction To Playing The Guitar

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A guide for students and parents to help in their daily independent practice.

- The ideal setting for learning guitar is on a one to one coaching sessions. Learning how to play the guitar in a group setting is challenging for both, the coach and the students.
- What is expected from the guitar coach: To balance learning, fun, and discipline.
- What is expected from the students: Follow the same behavior principles of the school. Pay attention and follow coach instructions, and above all, enjoy the experience of learning how to play the guitar ! 😊
- Class time and individual attention is limited, but enough information is given for students to **PRACTICE** at home every day for at least 15 minutes. There is no other way to learn playing an instrument ; practice, practice, practice.
- **Effort brings reward!** ; Learning any form of Arts enriches the human spirit, develops maturity of character, and enhances creativity in trying to solve any problems in practical ways.

Daily Hand / Finger Exercise : Builds muscle memory, flexibility and strength.



Parts of the Guitar

how stuff works...

Acoustic guitar

It is one of the most prominent musical instruments in history. Created in the 1500s, the guitar has strummed its way to popular culture by playing a variety of musical styles, from flamenco to rock. Without the acoustic guitar, music, as we know it today, will less likely strike a chord.

Main types of acoustic guitars



Classical guitar
Nylon strings, wider fingerboard for finger picking

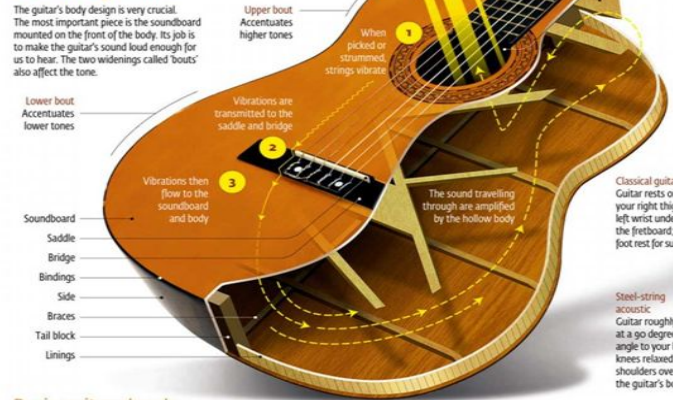
Steel-string acoustic
Steel strings, narrower fingerboard optimized for 'pick' playing

Archtop
Steel strings, arched top and back, F-holes similar to violin



Generating sound

The guitar's body design is very crucial. The most important piece is the soundboard mounted on the front of the body. Its job is to make the guitar's sound loud enough for us to hear. The two widenings called 'bouts' also affect the tone.



Upper bout
Accentuates higher tones

When picked or strummed, strings vibrate

Lower bout
Accentuates lower tones

Vibrations are transmitted to the saddle and bridge

Vibrations then flow to the soundboard and body

The sound travelling through are amplified by the hollow body

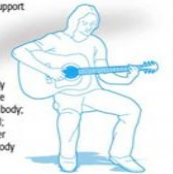
- Soundboard
- Saddle
- Bridge
- Bindings
- Side
- Braces
- Tail block
- Linings

Holding an acoustic guitar

Proper form in holding the guitar positively affects your playing.



Classical guitar
Guitar rests on your right thigh, left wrist under the fretboard, use foot rest for support



Steel-string acoustic
Guitar roughly at a 90 degree angle to your body, knees relaxed, shoulders over the guitar's body

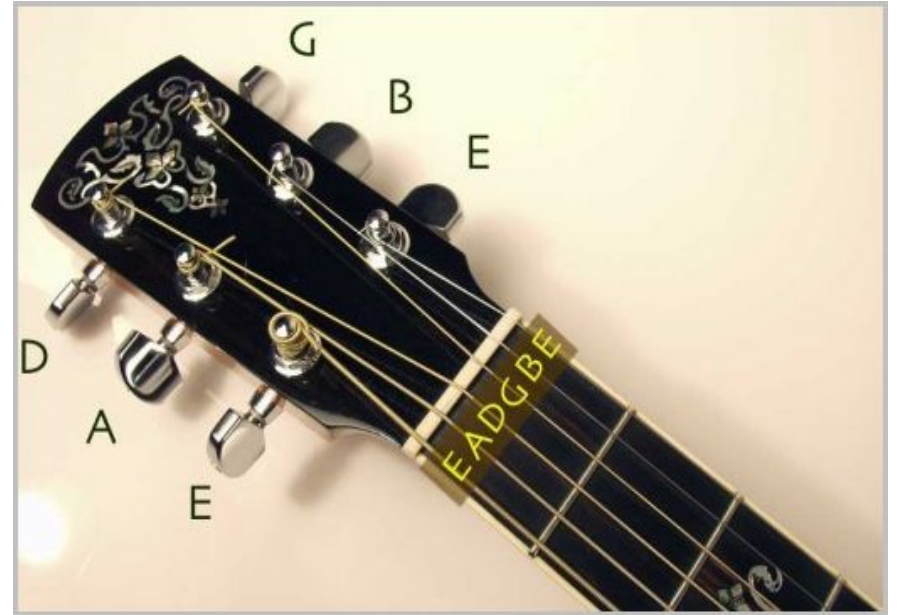
Basic guitar chords

There are plenty of guitar chord patterns. Start playing by learning these MAJOR chords.

Chord name	Note equivalent 6th string	Finger formation with a 'C' chord	D (re)	E (mi)	F (fa)
C (do)	String not to play	Nut			
G (sol)	String to press	1st string			

INFOGRAPHIC DOWNLOADED BY TRAZO TANJA AHMED HANINGGULI NEWS

Identifying the string by number and note



Identifying the string by number and note

6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Thick -----> Thin

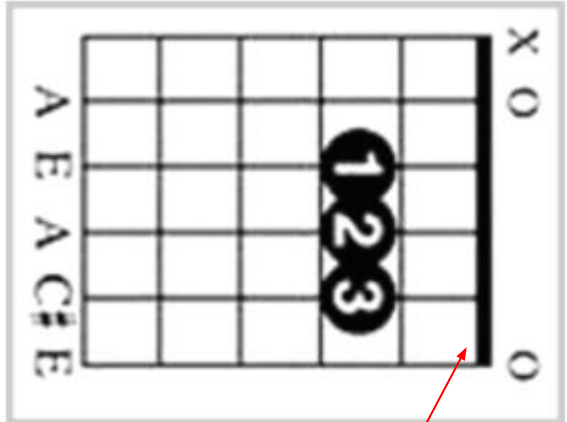
E - A - D - G - B - E

Guitar has 6 strings: String 1 at the bottom is the thinnest, string 6 at the top is the thickest.



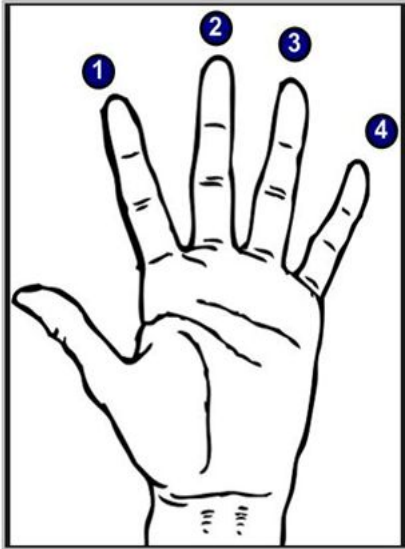
Aid for memorizing string numbers and notes

String #	Fret 3	Fret 2	Fret 1	String Note	Memory Aid
6th	↓	↓	↓	E	E nter
5th				A	A nother
4th				D	D imension
3rd				G	G oing
2nd				B	B etween
1st				e	E ars

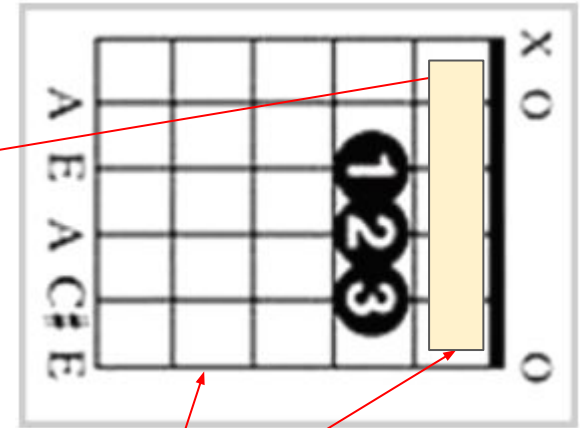


This line in the diagram represents the nut bar in the guitar

Understanding the Chords Diagram



This line in the diagram represents the nut bar in the guitar



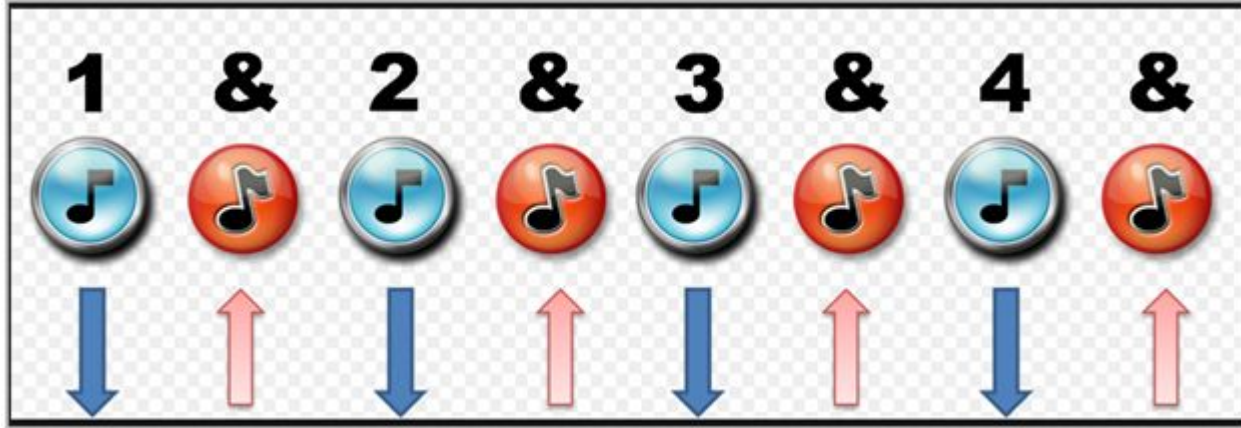
Each column represents a Fret board (the space between the metal frets). Fret 1 is the column to the most right (closest to the neck of the guitar) is.

Each horizontal line represent the strings. The bottom line is string 1 or E, which is the thinnest string (it is very important to memorize the strings order).

The numbers inside the dark circle represent the finger numbers.

In this diagram for chord A major, all fingers are positioned in Fret 2. -- Finger 1 is pressing on the fourth string individually creating the note E -- finger 2 is pressing on the third string and it creates the note A -- and finger 3 is pressing on the second string it creates the note C when played alone. -- When all strings are strummed together they create the A major chord.

Understanding Diagrams for rhythm / strumming patterns

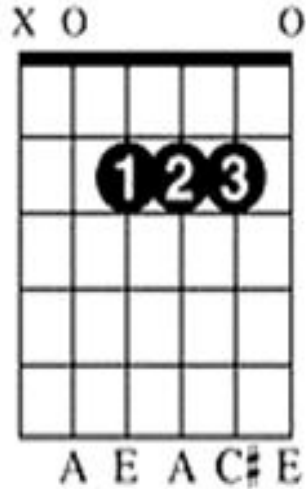


- The basic rhythm when playing music has a 4 beats count. 1 2 3 4 , 1 2 3 4 ...
- On 1 (blue arrow) strum the strings downwards
- On the "and" sign (red arrow) strum strings upwards
- On 2 (blue arrow) strum strings downward
- And so forth and so on, until you complete the 8 beats cycle. Then start all over again.

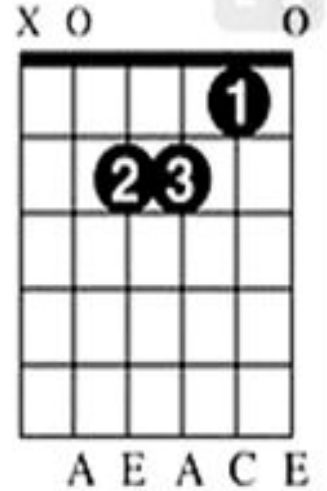
There are a lot of variations for strumming depending on the style of song. You will get familiar and learn different styles as you practice different songs.

Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !


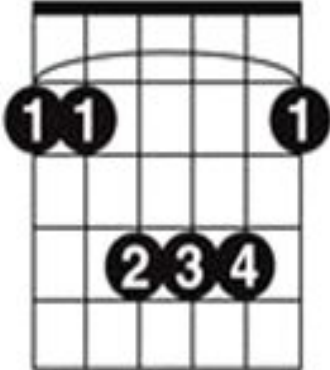

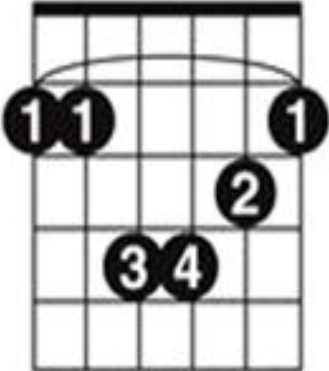
A Major



A Minor




Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !

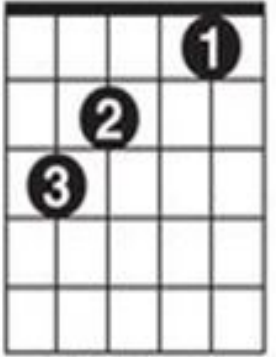
B Major		B Minor	
	 F# B F# B D# F#		 F# B F# B D F#

Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !

C Major

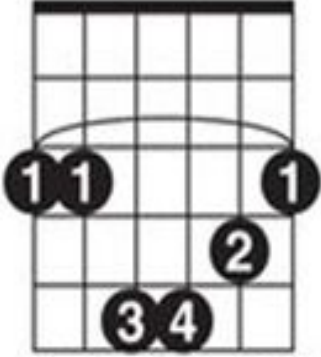



X O O



C E G C E


C Minor



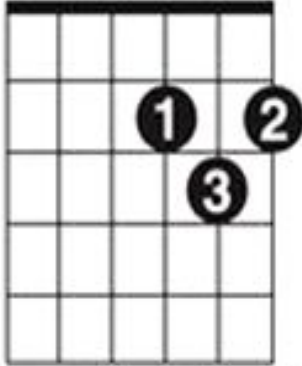
G C G C E_b G

Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !

D Major




X X O

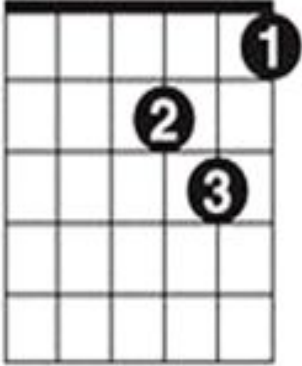


D A D F#

D Minor



X X O

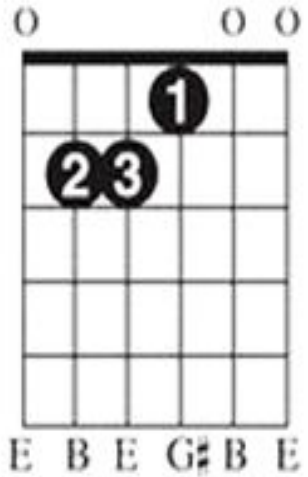


D A D F

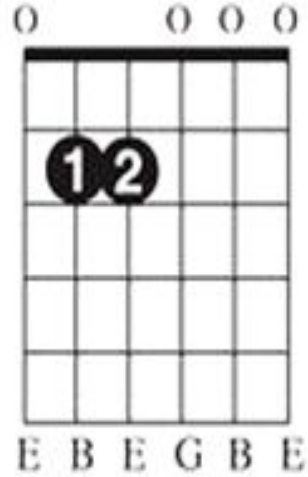
The image displays two guitar chord diagrams side-by-side. The left diagram is for D Major, showing a hand with the index finger on the 2nd fret of the D string, the middle finger on the 3rd fret of the A string, and the ring finger on the 2nd fret of the G string. The fretboard diagram shows 'X' for the high E and B strings, 'O' for the low E string, and circles with numbers 1, 2, and 3 on the 2nd, 3rd, and 2nd frets of the D, A, and G strings respectively. The notes D, A, D, and F# are listed below. The right diagram is for D Minor, showing a hand with the index finger on the 1st fret of the G string, the middle finger on the 2nd fret of the A string, and the ring finger on the 3rd fret of the D string. The fretboard diagram shows 'X' for the high E and B strings, 'O' for the low E string, and circles with numbers 1, 2, and 3 on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd frets of the G, A, and D strings respectively. The notes D, A, D, and F are listed below.

Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !

E Major

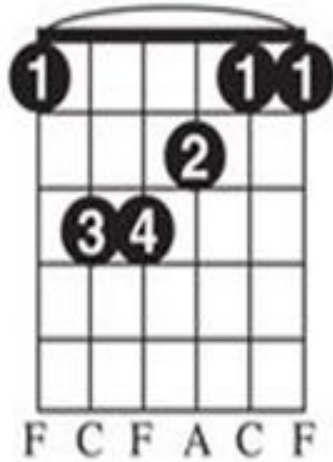


E Minor

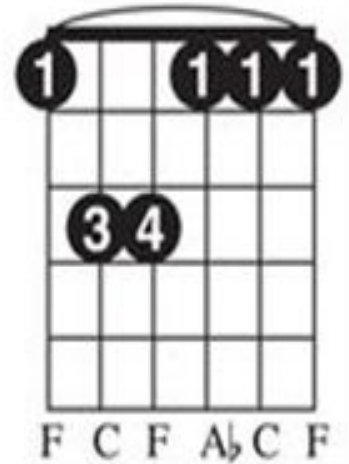


Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !

F Major

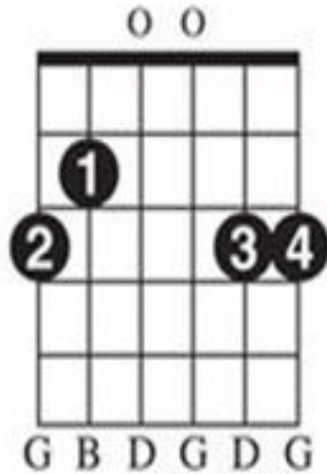


F Minor

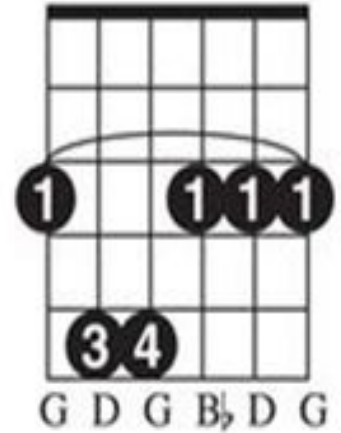


Basic Guitar Chords to start playing songs !

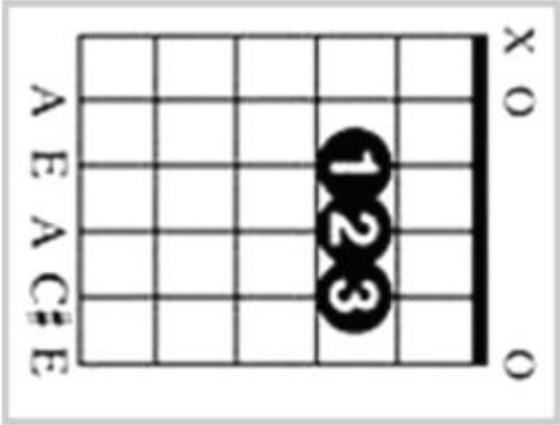
G Major



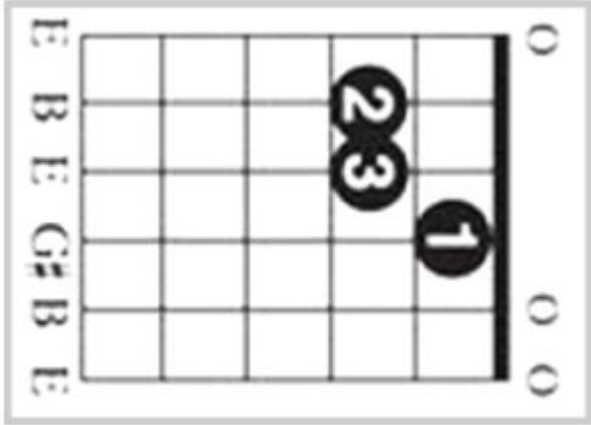
G Minor



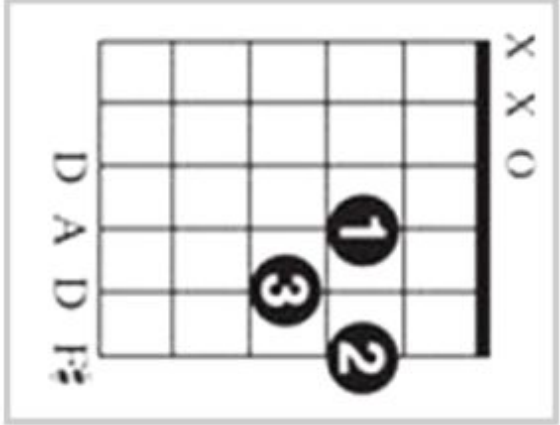
Start practicing these chords to start playing a lot of songs



A Major

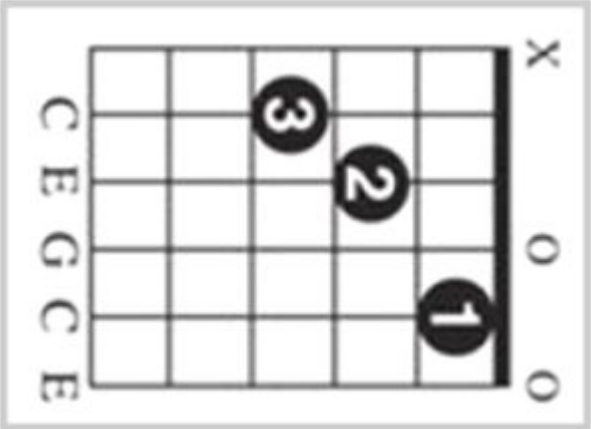


E Major

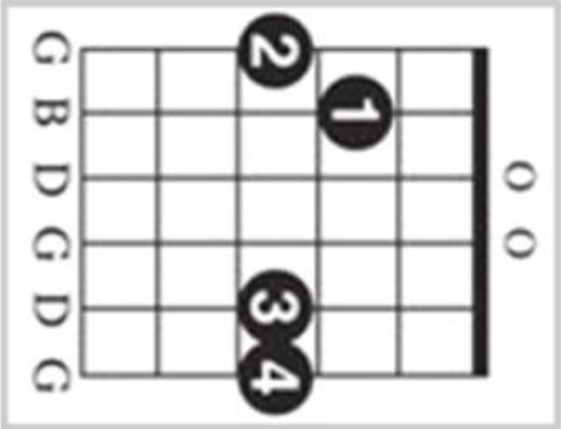


D Major

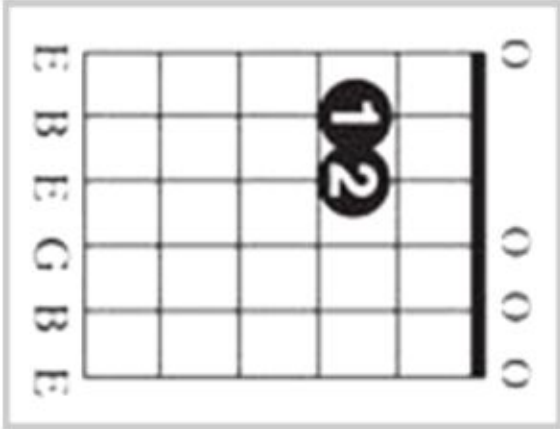
Start practicing these chords to start playing a lot of songs



C Major



C Major



E minor

Very useful information and links (**Parents: make sure to properly supervise your children when accessing the internet**)

- Guitar tuners: This is an essential tool. The strings on the guitar will eventually get out of tune. As you keep on playing the guitar your ear will get so familiar with the sound of each string's note that you will be able to tune it by ear. But the most accurate way is to use a tuner. Then you can adjust the strings according to your ear perception.
- Parents: There are several options for tuning a guitar. You can start by using a smartphone application, just make sure to pay for it instead of the free versions, avoid annoying ads. Once you download the app your child can use it to compare the sound the each string on the app with the sound of the strings on her/his guitar and adjust the strings until the sound matches. On the next slides there is a video link on how to tune the guitar.
- Similarly you can use your computer and use Youtube to search how to tune the guitar for beginners. And links for online guitar tuners. (<https://youtu.be/OUt11yVHKvU> make sure tu use the Standard method in this link)
- **The most accurate way for tuning a guitar is to use a digital tool.** You can buy it at Guitar Center, or online like Amazon, etc. Here is a couple of links that I would recommend:
- <http://www.musiciansfriend.com/accessories/snark-sn-11-all-instrument-clip-on-tuner-blue?pfm=sp#productDetail>
- <http://www.musiciansfriend.com/accessories/korg-rimpitch-aw-1-acoustic-soundhole-tuner?pfm=sp#productDetail>
- Also another useful tool is a Metronome. An device that produces regular sounds or beats, and can be adjusted to different beats per minute. A metronome helps the student to learn to keep tempo, and adjust rhythms as songs are being played. You can use a free online metronome (<http://www.webmetronome.com/>) or buy a real device like (<http://www.amazon.com/b?node=11965901>)

Video demo: How to use the chromatic digital tuner Snark SN-5

As you will see in the video. You clip the tuner on the head of the guitar. Start with the 6th string, which is the tone **E**. Play the open string (not pressing on it). Watch the display of the tuner, if the bars remain in the red zone, before the green center bar, it means the sound is flat or low pitch. You need to tighten the string by slowly turning the tuning peg towards your left, if you went too far and over tighten the string, you will see in the display the bars passing the center and reaching the yellow bars, it means the sound is sharper than the tone of the string. Loose the string by slowly turning the peg towards your right. Until the bar remains in the green center bar. Your **E** string is in tune. Repeat the process for rest of the strings 5th **A**, 4th **D**, 3th **G**, 2nd **B**, 1st **E**.



I highly recommend using a digital chromatic tuner at first to tune the guitar. Then as your ear becomes familiar with each of the string tones you may use the ear tuning methods.

Very useful information and links (**Parents: make sure to properly supervise your children when accessing the internet**)

This link is easy to understand and helps to learn how to tune the guitar by EAR.



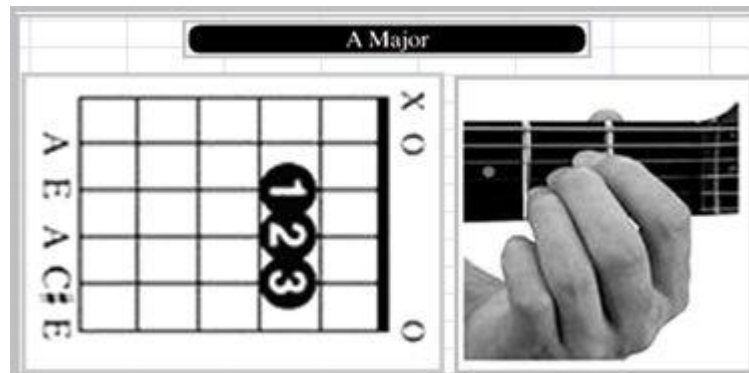
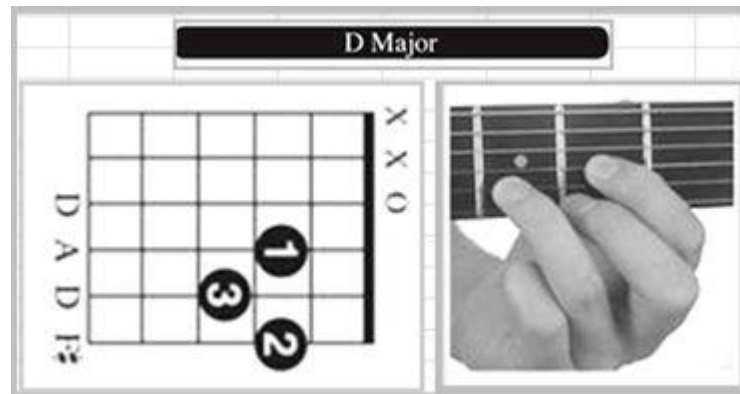
Very useful information and links (**Parents: make sure to properly supervise your children when accessing the internet**)

This link is concise and clear. It shows how to place your fingers to play the basic guitar chords.



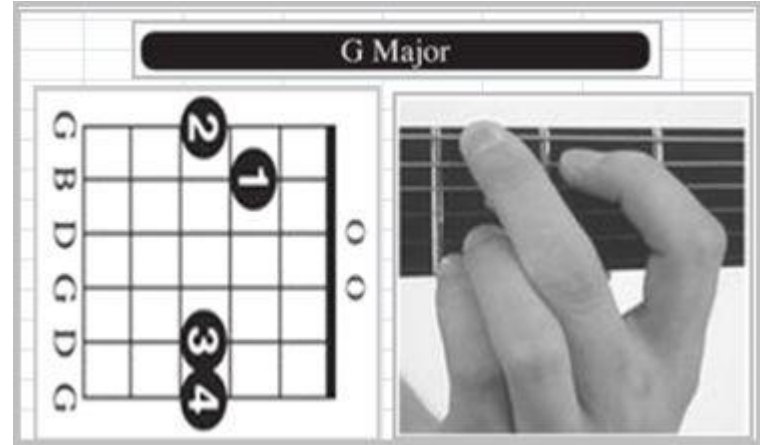
De Colores

D
DE COLORES DE COLORES SE VISTEN
LOS CAMPOS EN LA PRIMAVERA **A**
DE COLORES DE COLORES SON PAJARITOS
QUE VIENEN DE AFUERA **D**
D
DE COLORES DE COLORES ES EL ARCOIRIS
QUE VEMOS LUCIR **G**
Y POR ESO LOS GRANDES AMORES **D**
DE MUCHOS COLORES ME GUSTAN A MI **A** **D**
Y POR ESO LOS GRANDES AMORES **G** **D**
DE MUCHOS COLORES ME GUSTAN A MI **A** **D**



De Colores

D
CANTA EL GALLO CANTA EL GALLO
CON EL QUIRI QUIRI QUIRI QUIRI **A**
LA GALLINA LA GALLINA CON EL
KARA KARA KARA KARA KARA **D**
D
LOS POLLITOS LOS POLLITOS
CON EL PIO PIO PIO PIO PI **G**
Y POR ESO LOS GRANDES AMORES **D**
DE MUCHOS COLORES ME GUSTAN A MI **A** **D**
Y POR ESO LOS GRANDES AMORES **G** **D**
DE MUCHOS COLORES ME GUSTAN A MI **A** **D**



Independent Practice: Play and sing along video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWkZ7VzvpSE>



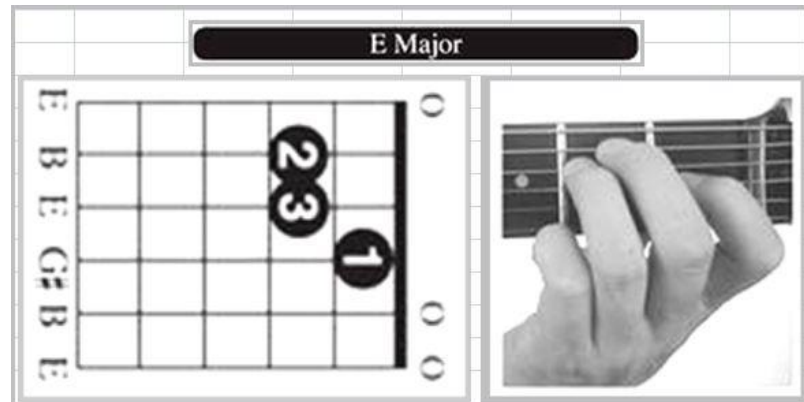
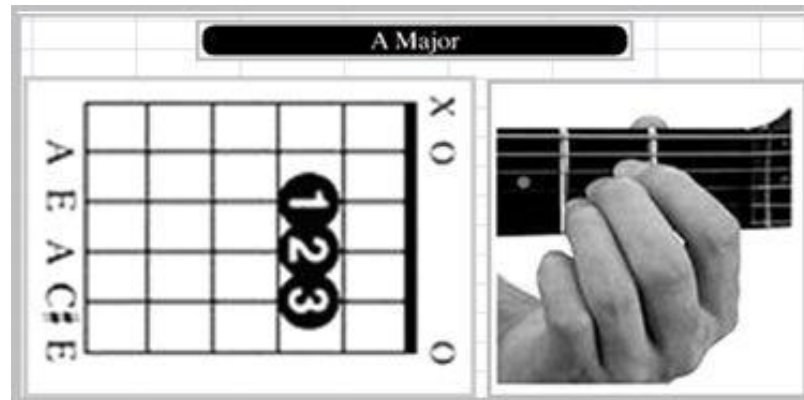
A
 DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING
D **A**
 CAUSE' EVERY LITTLE THING, GONA BE ALRIGHT

A
 DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING
D **A**
 CAUSE' EVERY LITTLE THING, GONA BE ALRIGHT

A **E**
 RISE UP THIS MORNING SMILE WITH THE RISING SUN
D **A**
 THREE LITTLE BIRDS SIT BY MY DOORSTEP
A **E**
 SINGING SWEET SONGS OF MELODY PURE AND TRUE
D **A**
 SAYING, THIS IS MY MESSAGE TO YOU-OO-OO

A
 SINGING' DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING
D **A**
 CAUSE' EVERY LITTLE THING, GONA BE ALRIGHT

A
 DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING
D **A**
 CAUSE' EVERY LITTLE THING, GONA BE ALRIGHT



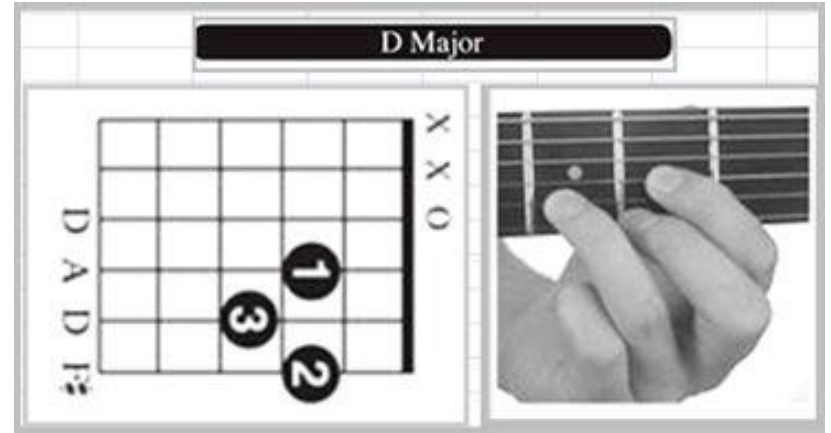


A RISE UP THIS MORNING SMILE WITH THE **E** RISING SUN
D THREE LITTLE BIRDS SIT BY MY **A** DOORSTEP
A SINGING SWEET SONGS OF MELODY **E** PURE AND TRUE
D SAYING, THIS IS MY MESSAGE TO YOU-OO-OO **A**

A SINGING' DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING
D CAUSE' EVERY LITTLE THING, GONA BE ALRIGHT **A**

A DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING
D CAUSE' EVERY LITTLE THING, GONA BE ALRIGHT **A**

A DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING . . .



Independent Practice: Play and sing along video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWkZ7VzvpSE>