

Primary Triads in Major Keys

Triads built on the first (tonic), fourth (subdominant) and fifth (dominant) degrees of the scale are called the **primary triads**, as these are the most useful and commonly used chords.

As you know, the chord built on the first degree of the scale is called the **tonic triad**. The chord built on the fifth degree of the scale is called the **dominant triad**, and the chord built on the fourth degree of the scale is the **subdominant triad**.

Primary triads in C major:

A musical staff in treble clef showing the C major scale. The notes are C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. Above the notes C, F, and G are the chord symbols C, F, and G respectively. Below the notes C, F, and G are the Roman numerals I, IV, and V respectively. The triads are shown as groups of three notes: C (C-E-G), F (F-A-C), and G (G-B-D).

In major keys all three of the primary triads are **major triads**.

Write the scale of F major, and build the three primary triads on the 1st, 4th and 5th degrees. Label the chords with both chord symbols above the notes and Roman Numerals below:

A blank musical staff in treble clef for writing the F major scale and primary triads.

Write the key signature and the three primary triads of all the major keys below, labelling them with the chord symbols above and the Roman Numerals below. (The first one has been done for you.)

G Major

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. Above the notes G, C, and D are the chord symbols G, C, and D respectively. Below the notes G, C, and D are the Roman numerals I, IV, and V respectively. The triads are shown as groups of three notes: G (G-B-D), C (C-E-G), and D (D-F-A).

D Major

A blank musical staff in treble clef for writing the D major scale and primary triads.

B flat Major

A blank musical staff in treble clef for writing the B flat major scale and primary triads.

E flat Major

A blank musical staff in treble clef for writing the E flat major scale and primary triads.

A Major

A blank musical staff in treble clef for writing the A major scale and primary triads.

E Major

A blank musical staff in treble clef for writing the E major scale and primary triads.