

# PRIMARY CHORDS

Many songs and pieces in the western world contain what we refer to as *primary chords*, which are chords based on the first (I), fourth (IV) and fifth (V) notes of the major scale. They are called *primary* because they are our three most commonly used chords. We use **roman numerals** to name the chords built on the notes, or *degrees* (1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> etc.) of a scale. In the key of C, the I chord is C major, the IV chord is F major (because F is the 4<sup>th</sup> note or *degree* of the C scale), and the V chord is G major (because G is the 5<sup>th</sup> note or *degree* of the C scale).



For each scale below, write roman numerals I, IV and V under the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> notes in the left column, then write the names of the I, IV and V chords on the right:

SCALE	I	IV	V
C D E F G A B C example: I IV V	example: C	F	G
G A B C D E F# G I IV V	G	C	D
D E F# G A B C# D I IV V	D	G	A
A B C# D E F# G# A I IV V	A	D	E
E F# G# A B C# D# E I IV V	E	A	B
B C# D# E F# G# A# B I IV V	B	E	F#
F# G# A# B C# D# E# F# I IV V	F#	B	C#
D# E# F G# A# B# C D# I IV V	D#	G#	A#
A# B# C D# E# F# G# A# I IV V	A#	D#	E#
E# F G# A# B# C# D# E# I IV V	E#	A#	B#
B# C D# E# F# G# A# B# I IV V	B#	E#	F#
F G A B# C D E F I IV V	F	B#	C