

DIATONIC HARMONY

major scale: triads

Below is a line of triads built on the **C major scale**.

It's easy to think that every chord would be major because they are built on the major scale - in fact, three of the chords are minor and one is diminished, indicated with lower-case Roman numerals.

Note that the **only major chords** are **I, IV, & V** (1, 4 & 5)

A musical staff in treble clef showing seven triads built on the C major scale. The triads are: I (C maj), ii (D min), iii (E min), IV (F maj), V (G maj), vi (A min), and vii dim (B dim). The notes for each triad are: I (C4, E4, G4), ii (D4, F4, A4), iii (E4, G4, B4), IV (F4, A4, C5), V (G4, B4, D5), vi (A4, C5, E5), and vii dim (B4, D5, F5).

When you write triads built on any major scale - in any key - the pattern of chords will **ALWAYS** be the **SAME**.

I (1) - major

ii (2) - minor

iii (3) - minor

IV (4) - major

V (5) - major

vi (6) - minor

vii (7) - diminished

YOUR TURN...

Construct triads on the **F major scale**. You need to think about the key. For the purposes of this exercise, don't use a key signature, use accidentals.

A musical staff in treble clef with a single note on the first line (F4). Below the staff are seven positions labeled I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, and vii dim, corresponding to the triads to be constructed.

- Name the accidental _____
- This accidental appears 3 times across all seven chords - does yours? _____
- Write the chord names underneath.
- Circle the major chords