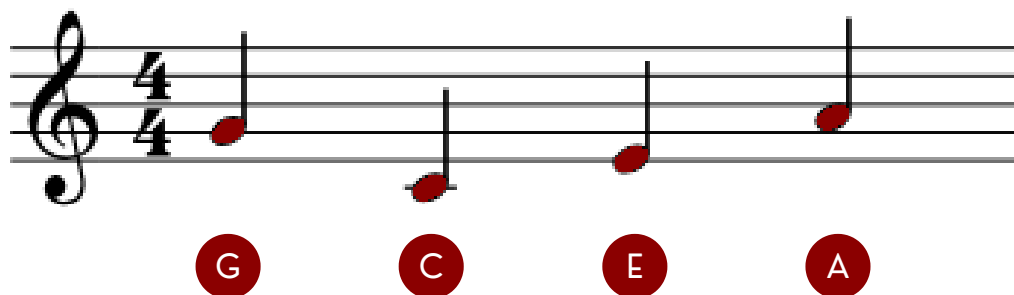
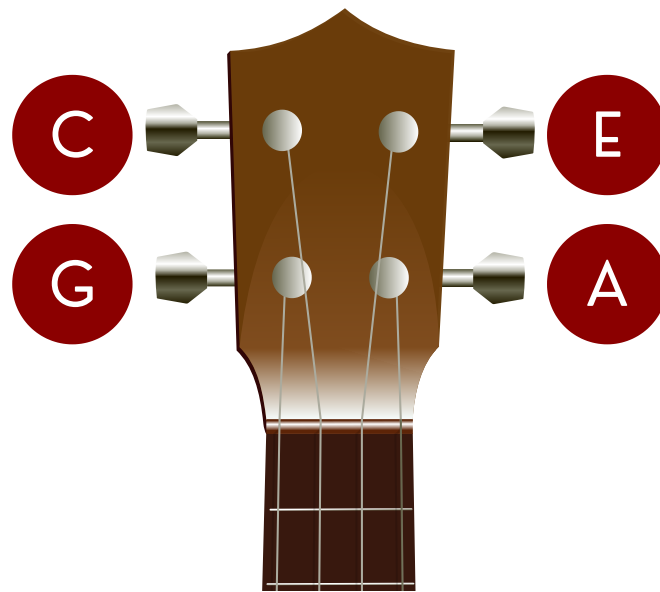


THE OPEN STRINGS

When we play a string without pressing any frets, we call this an open string. Here is how the ukulele is tuned:



Strumming the strings from your nose to your toes, the strings go:

G C E A

An easy way to remember this is by saying:

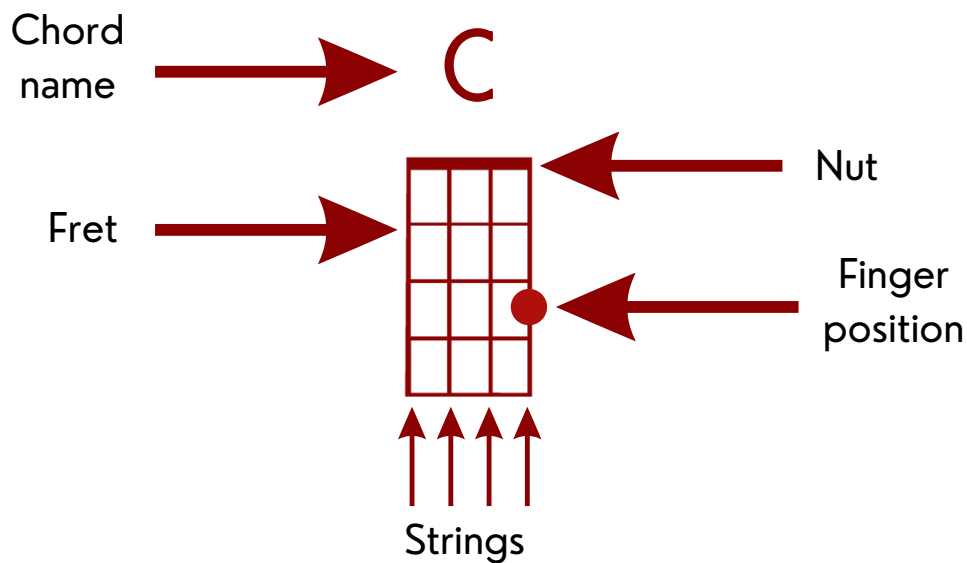
Good Children Eat Apples!

Nestle the ukulele in the crook of your right arm, and hold it flat against you. The neck should rest between your left thumb and forefinger. Gently bring your right thumb downwards over all of the strings where the neck meets the body. This is your first chord on the open strings!

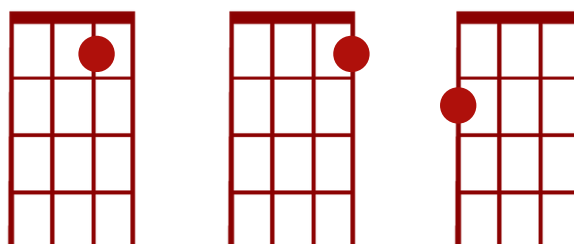
PLAYING CHORDS

When we play songs on the ukulele, we usually use a chord box. This is a diagram of the top of your ukulele's frets, and the circles show you where to put your fingers.

A ukulele chord box looks like this:

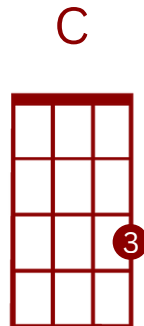


You read a chord box as if you are looking at the ukulele straight on. In the example above, you would place your finger on the third fret of the A string (the string closest to the floor). Look at the diagrams below and see if you can figure out where your fingers would go:



PLAYING CHORDS 2

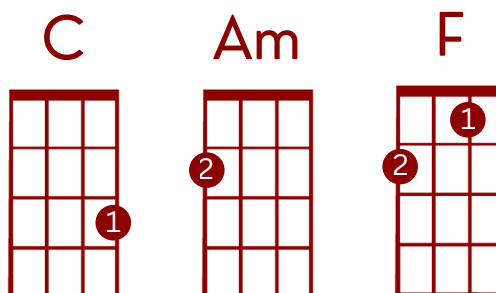
Sometimes, a chord diagram will show you which fingers to use, just to help you out a little more, like this:



The number 3 in the circle means we press that fret with the 3rd finger of our left hand:

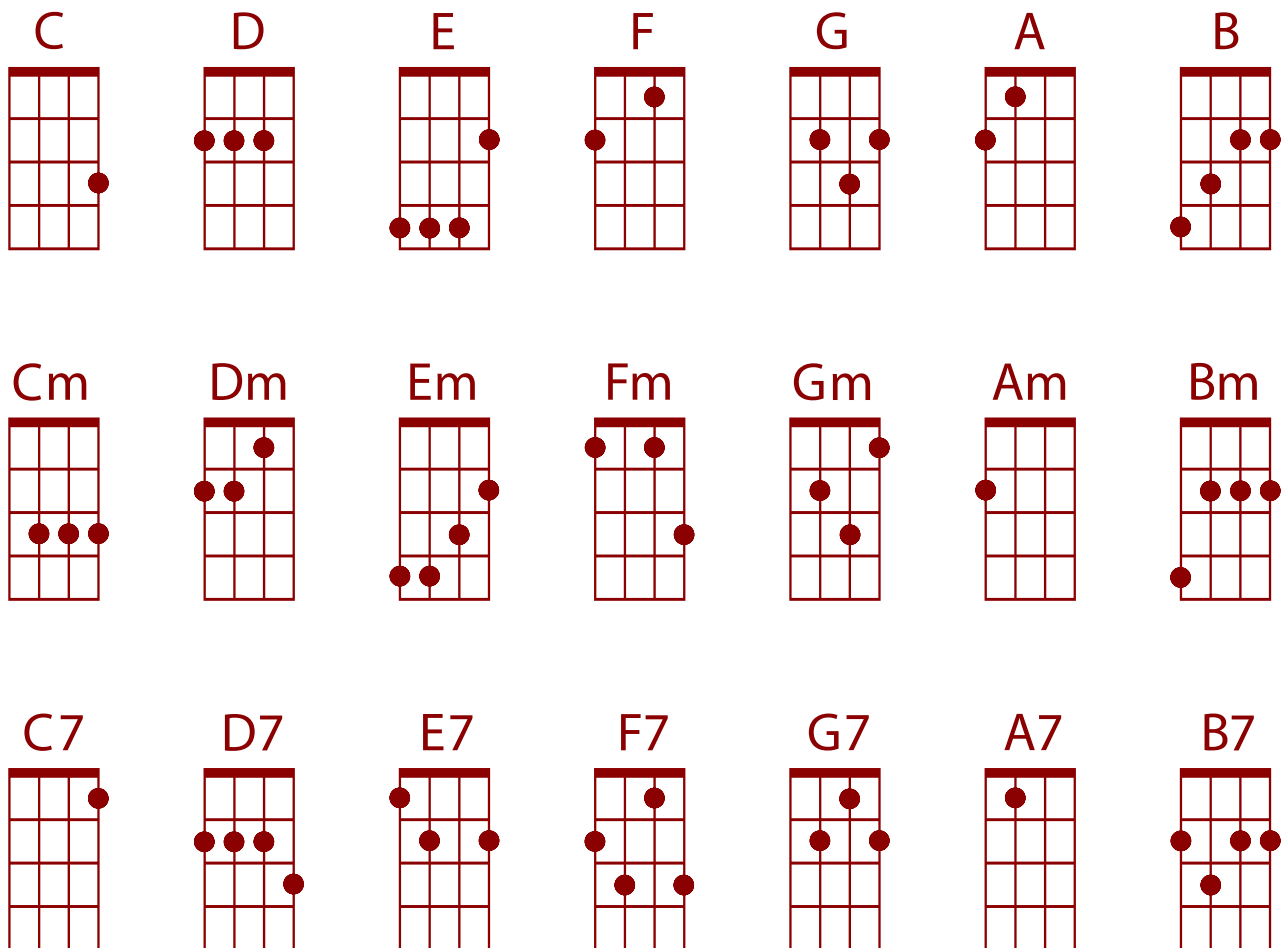


Try playing the following chords, using the right fingers:



CHORD LIBRARY

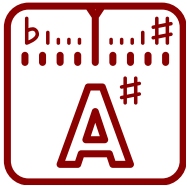
Here are some basic chords to get you started. You don't need to use them all, don't worry!



I've also provided a more comprehensive sheet with finger numbers, and though it may look overwhelming, it's worth taking a look through!

PRACTICE TIPS

There's no shortcut to improving your playing - it's all down to practice. Here are some tips to help you make the most of your practice sessions.



Always start your session by tuning your uke. It gets you used to what it should sound like, and nobody likes an out of tune instrument!



Try to do at least 10 minutes of practice every day. A little each day is better than panic practicing for an hour before your next lesson!



Be patient with yourself and take it slow. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither are ukulele players! Learning is a slow process, so go easy on yourself.



Try playing along with a metronome. This will keep you in time, forcing your fingers to move quicker. It will also help you build up your internal metronome.



Keep a practice diary. This will help you to keep track of what your goals are, and will help your teacher know what is going well and what you still need to work on.



Don't be afraid to ask for help. If there's something you're not quite getting the hang of, or don't quite understand, just ask!

PARTS OF THE UKE

The ukulele is made up of several parts labelled below.

