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# Lesson 1: Introduction to Guitar

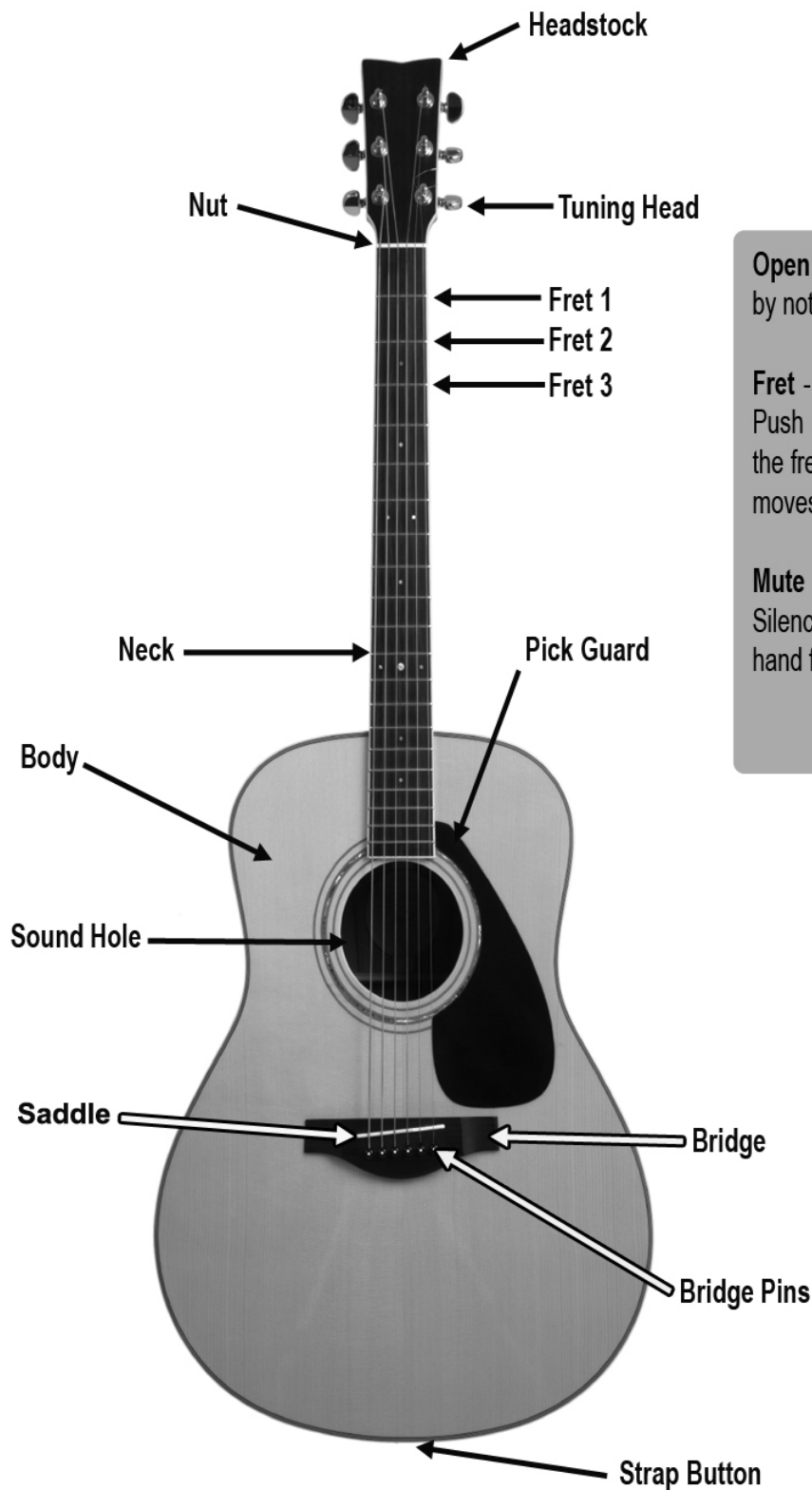
In this lesson, you will learn:

- The parts of the electric and acoustic guitar
- Techniques to effectively practice guitar
- Chart reading for guitar

## Notes from Eric:

When you are getting started, it is important to understand the parts of the guitar and the different types of chord charts that you are going to be reading. Most guitar players start out by reading charts instead of regular music notation. Chord charts are important because they will show you where to place your fingers to make the various chords you need to play songs. You will be learning a lot about music and notation, but first you will begin by reading charts. Tablature and chord charts are the two most important forms of guitar music you will need to learn to read. They are both simple to understand but take a little time to get used to.

# Parts of the Guitar

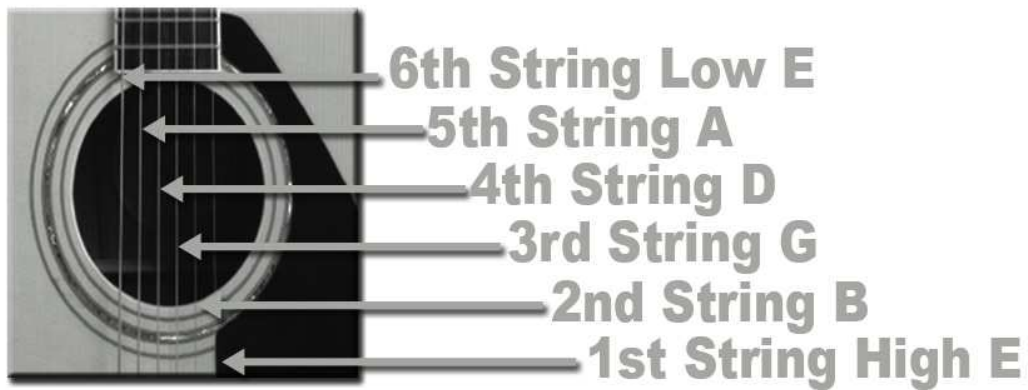


**Open String** - Play the string open by not pushing down on any fret.

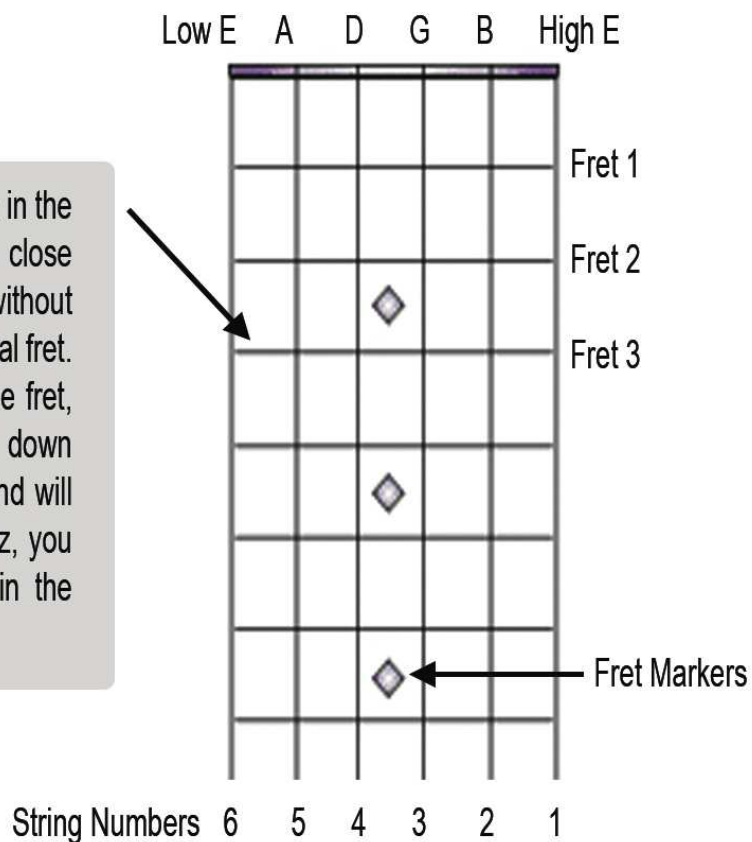
**Fret** - Metal dividers on the neck. Push down in the space between the frets to make notes. Each fret moves up a half step.

**Mute** - Do not play the string. Silence the string with your right hand finger or your left hand palm.

# String Name



To play fret 3, push down in the space between frets as close to the fret as you can without actually touching the metal fret. The closer you are to the fret, the easier it is to push down and the cleaner the sound will be. If you hear fret buzz, you could be too far back in the space.



# How to make practice easy!

- Use the practice journal to track your progress
- Get in the habit of picking up the guitar and strumming a few chords.
- Leave the guitar out on the stand where it is easily accessible.
- Find quiet time away from all distractions to practice a song you are learning
- Take your guitar out on the porch or to the park and practice your songs.
- Spend quiet time playing simple worship songs during your devotion time.
- Play some songs with a few friends.
- Join a worship band. This will help stretch you and keep you playing more. Playing with other people helps you grow.
- Play a scale during the commercials of your favorite TV show
- Play guitar quietly while watching the news or a TV program.
- Hold the guitar as much as you can. Become comfortable with it being in your hands.
- Dedicate to learning this instrument.
- Play the guitar as much as possible! Simple chord strumming or serious scale memorization... you need to keep the guitar in your hands as much as possible. Play every day, even if it is only for 5-10 minutes.

Set goals for yourself and make a habit of reaching them.

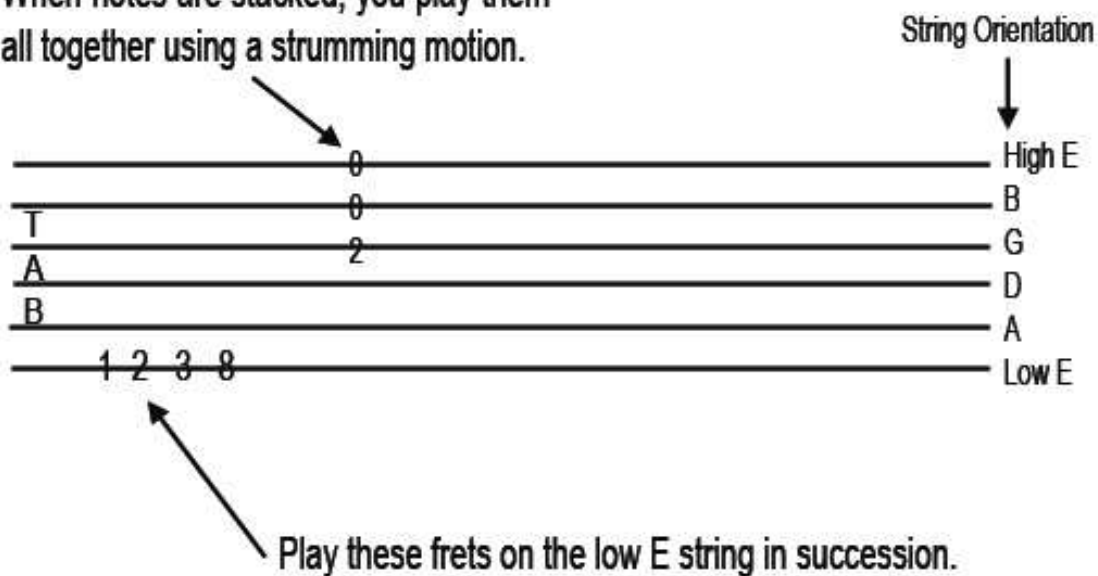
# Reading Charts: Tablature

Tablature is the easiest and most popular method for reading guitar music; it is often referred to as tab.

- Tablature has 6 lines.
- Each line represents a string on your guitar.
- The numbers on the lines represent your frets. If the number is “2”, then place your finger on the correct string at the second fret.

Fret numbers may coincide with your finger number, but you can use any finger to play the note indicated.

When notes are stacked, you play them all together using a strumming motion.



Tablature is a guide; it usually does not notate rhythm, so it is important to be familiar with the song.

## Helpful Hint:

You can see the Low E String by looking at the arrow. You need to keep the right perspective when reading tablature. The Low E String is the bottom line of the Tablature!



# Tablature on the Internet

Popular Internet sites use tablature that looks like this:

```
-----5--4---3--2--1-1-----  
-----3-----  
-----0-----  
-----0-----  
-----0-----  
-----0---3---3---2---1---0--0--0---
```

Practice by playing the notes above.

Note: This does not make a song. They are merely random notes for you to practice.

## Helpful Hint:

When notes are stacked on top of each other, you play them at the same time. Chords will appear this way.

There are many symbols used in tablature. You will learn about these in future methods. If you would like to explore deeper into tablature symbols, pick up a guitar magazine or log on to [www.8chords100songs.com](http://www.8chords100songs.com) to see more tab symbols. You can also find a songbook that has a "Tab Legend" in the back.

Practice reading tab by playing this...

```
---5---3---1---3-5-5-5---3-3-3---5-5-5-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----
```

What song does this sound like?

Mary Had A Little Lamb

# Reading Charts: Chord Chart

This is the most popular form of notating chord shapes. You will be reading many chord charts in this book. There are different ways to write the symbols used in chord charts. Once you understand how it works, you will be able to relate to the way different publishers use chord chart symbols.

## **The Basics of Reading Chord Charts:**

The vertical lines = your guitar strings

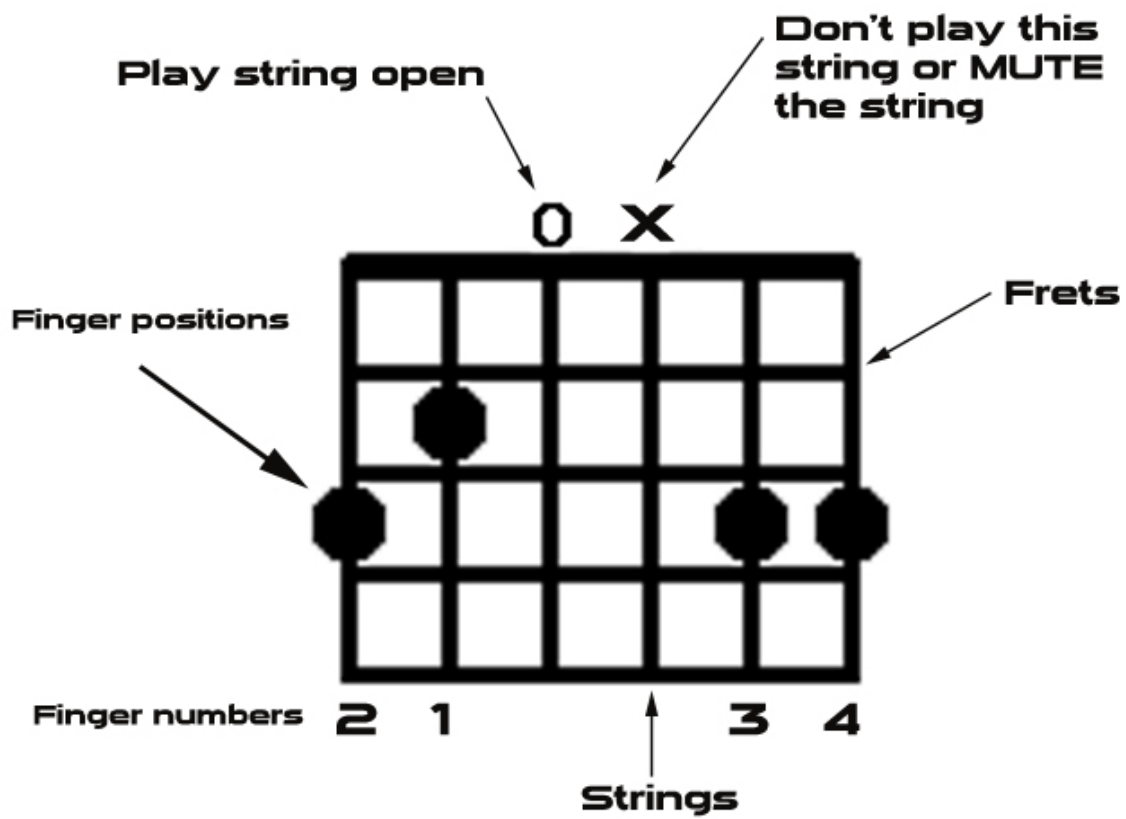
The horizontal lines = your frets

The dots on the chart = your finger placement

The numbers under the chart = your finger numbers. (Follow these closely)

The symbols above the chart tell you what strings to play.





# Reading Chords on the Internet

Popular Internet sites use the following simple form of notation for chords.

The C Chord = X32033

The D Chord = XX0232

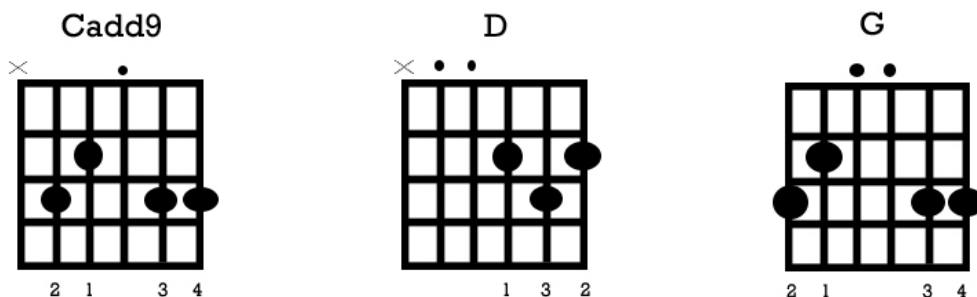
The G Chord = 320033

You read this from left to right.

Starting on the Low E string you place your fingers on the fret numbers as listed.

The “X” means you don’t play the string.

Since you just learned how to read a chord chart, below are examples of the chords above to compare to reading chords on the Internet.

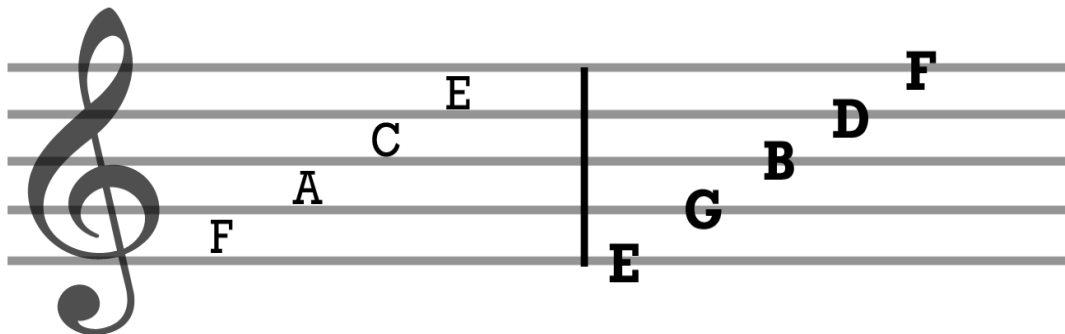


# Reading Charts: Notation

Standard music notation is used to write and read music for most instruments. This is the form of notation widely used by people all over the world, and is often referred to as reading notes. However, many successful and talented guitar players never learn to read notes! Because charts are easily used to learn to play guitar, a person can play guitar for their entire life and never read a single note of music.

You will learn the basics of reading notes for the guitar. It will enable you to read music for the guitar and give you the ability to understand the language of music, which will help you grow as you become a great guitar player. Reading notes takes a lot of practice and skill. You will begin this journey in Book 3. Reading notes is not covered in the program until you are able to play many songs and know your chord shapes.

This is the Treble Clef.



You know the name of the note by what line or space the note is resting in.

You know the rhythm by the kind of note (quarter note, half note, etc.)

The names of the Spaces: F A C E

The names of the Lines: E G B D F

You can memorize it like this: Every Good Boy Does Fine

