

What Are Chords?

A chord is more than one note played at the same time. In rock and pop, 3 note triad chords are most commonly used, for example, C Major:



So the C Major Chord is built using the 1st, 3rd and 5th degrees of the C Major scale, and yes you may have already noticed, the degrees of the scale are the same as intervals? Pretty much, except the degrees of the scale use the notes from the specific scale in question, whereas as an interval is the distance between 2 **any** notes, and so you can get all sorts of intervals, like we looked at in the Intervals lecture. This will all become clearer as we go through the course, I don't want to get too bogged down with theory right now so let's keep moving.