

# Diatonic Chord Theory

Key of C (C major scale)

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
I	2	3	4	5	6	7



relative minor key \*

**I IV V** – major chords

**II III VI** – minor chords

**VII** – diminished chord

Each note in a key (major scale) represents a chord in the key.

Chords in the key of C – C major, F major, G major **I IV V**

D minor, E minor, A minor **II III VI**

B diminished **VII**

These chords can be used in a variety of combinations to create a chord progression for a song.

\* Every major key has a relative minor key (6<sup>th</sup> note of the key).  
Notes in the key of A minor- A B C D E F G

If the main chord in a song is the **I** chord, you are in a major key.  
If the main chord in a song is the **VI** chord, you are in a minor key.