Building Block No. 3:  
Discovering 1-3-5 is as Easy as 1-2-3  
How to Form a Major Triad

Chord:  
When three or more notes sound at the same time, you are hearing (or playing) a chord. Although notes played together create a chord, how the notes are related to each other is very important. More about that later.

Triad:  
A chord composed of three notes is considered to be a triad.  "Tri" refers to the number three (3) as in the word "triangle" (a three sided figure).

The Major Triad:  
The major triad is a chord made up of three (3) specific notes that are in the major scale.  
Note: if you are having difficulty remembering how to form a major scale, review Building Block No. 2: Scaling the Summit is as Simple as Do-Re-Mi: The Major Scale.

```
1st            3rd            5th
C              D skip        E skip F  G
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The Root:  
Although the first note of the major scale is the same as the first note of the major chord, the letter name of the chord is called the Root.

Here's the good news...  
From now on you will know two things about every major chord:  
1. The Root of every chord is its letter name.  
2. The Root of the chord is the first note of the major scale that has the same letter name.

This is how the Major Triad looks on the staff:

```
5th
3rd
Root
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What if you don't know how to form the major scale that has the same letter names as the chord? There's a simple solution: use the step method (see Building Block No. 1: Unlocking the Secret System of the Black & White Keys: Half Steps & Whole Steps).

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5th
3rd 1 & 1/2 steps
Root 2 steps
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One more important point to remember:  
Chords are every other letter name while scales are every successive letter name.