Diatonic Triads

Triads are spelled from bottom to top.

The last note is the 5th of the chord and it is two notes up from the 3rd.

The next note in a triad is a 3rd which is two notes up from the root.

The first note and the name of the chord is called the root.

When triads are applied to each scale degree in a major key, the following chord qualities are produced; *major, minor, and diminished*. Roman numerals are used to represent scale degree and chord qualities.

Major, capital roman numeral I

Minor, lower-case roman numeral ii

Diminished: lower-case roman numeral with a degree vii^o

The following diatonic sequence of triad chord qualities is the same for all major keys.

I ii iii IV V vi viio

Here is an example of the diatonic sequence of triads in the key of A major.

	#5	#3 #	**	3	•		# 3
5th	E	F#	G#	Α	В	C#	D
3rd	C#	D	E	F#	G#	А	В
Root	А	В	C#	D	E	F#	G#
Chord Symbol	А	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#º
Diatonic Chord	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	viiº