

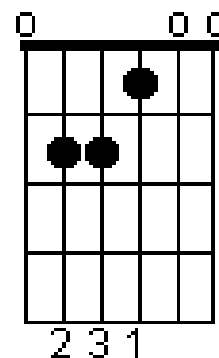
# Playing E, A & D



## Playing an E major Chord

Playing an E major chord is actually very similar to playing an A minor chord; you just need to switch the strings you are playing the chord on. Start by placing your second finger on the second fret of the fifth string. Now, place your third finger on the second fret of the fourth string. Lastly, place your first finger on the first fret of the third string. Strum all six strings and you're playing an E major chord.

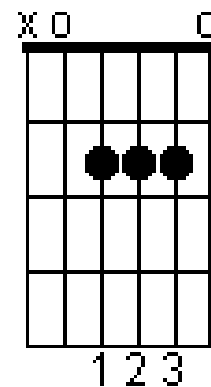
Now, like last lesson, test yourself to make sure you're playing the chord properly. Starting on the sixth string, strike each string one at a time, making sure each note in the chord is ringing clearly. If not, study your fingers, and identify what the problem is. Then, try to adjust your fingering so the problem goes away.



## Playing an A major Chord

This chord is a little tougher; you've got to fit all three of your fingers on the second fret, and it can feel a little crowded at first. Start by placing your first finger on the second fret of the fourth string. Next, put your second finger on the second fret on the third string. Lastly, place your third finger on the second fret of the second string. Strum the bottom five strings (being careful to avoid the sixth), and you'll be playing an A major chord.

Another common way to play an A major chord is by flattening one finger across the second fret of all three strings. This can be tricky, and initially, will be extremely difficult to play cleanly.



## Playing a D major chord

Some beginners have slightly more difficulty playing a D major chord (often called a "D chord"), since your fingers have to cram into a fairly small area. Shouldn't be too much of a problem however, if you can comfortably play the other two chords.

Place your first finger on the second fret of the third string. Then, put your third finger on the third fret of the second string. Lastly, place your second finger on the second fret of the first string. Strum only the bottom 4 strings when playing a D major chord.

Spend some time familiarizing yourself with these three chords... you will use them for the rest of your guitar-playing career. Make sure you can play each of the chords without looking at the diagrams. Know what the name of each chord is, where each finger goes, and which strings you strum or do not strum.

