

# QUICKSTART GUITAR: WEEK ONE

## VISUALIZE

- Memorize the names of the open strings: E A D G B E (**E**ven **A**lligators **D**rink **G**atorade **B**efore **E**ating).
- Count Strings 1-6 (thin strings to thick strings)
- Count Frets—memorize which dots on your fingerboard = what fret numbers.
- Learn “The Guitar”: headstock, neck, & body

## APPLIED MUSIC THEORY

### Basic Definitions:

1. **Open Strings**—unfretted notes, there are six of them: E A D G B E. We count these open from high (thin/1) to low (thick/6).
2. **Chords**—chords are *what we strum*, 3 or more notes played simultaneously.
3. **Melody**—a melody (or anything melodic) is the parts of a song *that can be sung*. Every song has a main melody, which is what the singer sings lyrics to. Guitar parts often contain melodic “stuff” as well, in the form of “riffs” and “licks.”
4. **Chord Progression**—two or more chords grouped together (chord changes).
5. **Riffs**—melodies within the rhythm guitar part; “Come As You Are” for example.
6. **Licks**—melodies within the lead guitar parts; many solos are built off of a series of *licks*—moves, melodies and memorized fingering patterns that are put together in some musical way. To hear how licks are used to build solos, listen to the introduction of Chuck Berry’s “Johnny B. Goode.”
7. **Rhythm Guitar** (simplistic definition)—a style of approaching the guitar that deals with chord changes, rhythm, percussive effects, and riffs... the guitar is seen as a tool for accompaniment (the voice).
8. **Lead Guitar** (simplistic definition)—a style of approaching the guitar that deals with melody, licks, and solos... the guitar is seen as a tool for creating a barrage of notes overtop the rhythm guitar part.

## CHORDS

- **FOUR CHORDS:** G, D, C, & Am (page 12). There are two goals in this week’s chord lesson. Our first goal is to memorize these chords by name and fingering. The second goal is to make these chords sound clear... sound like something you would want to listen to.

## SCALES

EYES SHUT Exercise (Page 11). Warm up with this exercise everyday.

## NOTE READING

- Reading Chord Diagrams (page 6)
- Reading Tablature (page 7)
- Reading Basic Rhythms (page 3)—Whole, Half, & Quarter Note Rhythms & Rests.

## TABLATURE

- Reading Chord Diagrams (page 6)
- Reading Tablature (page 7)
- Reading Basic Rhythms (page 3)—Whole, Half, & Quarter Note Rhythms & Rests.