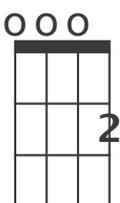# *Chord Quality*

Before we really get cooking, I want to broach the subject of **Chord Quality**. The **C** chord, above, is technically known as the "**C Major chord**"; we don't usually bother to say "major" when referring to a major chord; we just use the letter name. (There are 12 notes in music, and each one has a Major chord named after it.)

"Chord Quality" means how a chord.....makes you *feel*. Pretty subjective, yeah. Well, most of us can *indeed* agree on how the different Chord Qualities make us feel. The Major Chord Quality is the most common, and it gives us a bright, happy feeling.
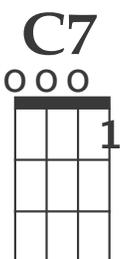
Let's look at some other Chord Qualities that are "rooted" on the **C** note:

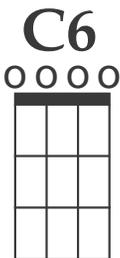Here on the left are three Chord Qualities based on the bright, happy Major chord.

Time to start learning how to play **barre chords**, where a single finger, usually the 1st, presses down on several strings.

Cma7

Cma7 (C Major Seventh) has a slightly dissonant sound, a bit tangy. Makes me think of **jazz** and Burt Bacharach. And maybe Barbados.

C5

C5 (C Five) is an example of a **Power Chord**. Lay your 1st finger flat over the 1st and 2nd strings. Sounds stronger than a Major chord, not so full and well rounded.

C7

C7 (C Seventh) is more dissonant, edgy and restless, more evocative of the **blues**. There seems to be a sharp, insistent push to move on to some other chord.
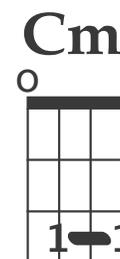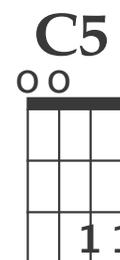
Cm

Cm (C Minor) sounds fuller than **C5**, but also **sad**. A.k.a, the scary chord, the war chord. *Lay the 1st finger **flat*** over the 3 strings and *squeeze*.

C6

C6 (C Sixth) is simply the open 4 strings of the ukulele. (In fact, the way the uke is tuned is called **C6** tuning.) The sound is airy, meditative, ambiguous.

Cm7

Cm7 (C Minor Seventh) is also sad but is more dissonant, perhaps **bittersweet**. Barre all 4 strings, lay it flat, *SQUEEZE!*

The 3 most important Chord Qualities we have are *Major*, *Minor* and *Seventh*. Don't sweat the barre chords right now; we'll get back to them when we need them.