

Ask the students how each of the different Chord Qualities make them **feel**. Discuss their impressions. Ask about (1) degrees of **consonance** and **dissonance**; (2) **pure** sounds versus **restless** sounds, maybe in terms of different **flavors** or **colors**; I don't know, anything to help make a personal association.

Chord Qualities

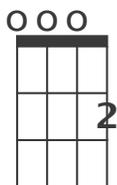
Before we really get cooking, I want to broach the subject of **Chord Quality**. The **C** chord, above, is technically known as the "**C Major chord**"; we don't usually bother to say "major" when referring to a major chord; we just use the letter name. (There are 12 notes in music, and each one has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

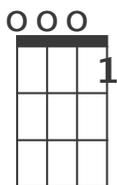
Here on the left are three Chord Qualities based on the bright, happy Major chord.

Cma7



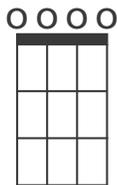
Cma7 (C Major Seventh) has a slightly dissonant sound, a bit tangy. Makes me think of **jazz** and Burt Bacharach. And maybe Barbados.

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.

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.

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

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.

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**.

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

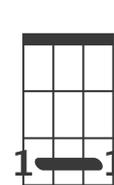
C5



Cm



Cm7



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.