

No Bull Music Theory for Guitarists – Answer Key

Volume I, Chapter 1

1. The musical alphabet contains 12 notes.
2. The musical alphabet is called the chromatic scale.
3. The notes a, b, c, d, e, f, g are called the natural notes.
4. The symbol for a sharp is #.
5. The symbol for a flat is b.
6. There is no flat or sharp note between b & c, nor is there one between e & f. We use the mnemonic "big cats, eat fish" to remind us of this.
7. The note in between g and a is g# or ab.
8. The note in between d and e is d# or eb.
9. Starting at c the musical alphabet is c, c#/db, d, d#/eb, e, f, f#/gb, g, g#/ab, a, a#/bb, b, c

Volume I, Chapter 2

1. A semitone is a distance of 1 fret
2. A tone is a distance of 2 frets
3. A semitone can also be called a half step
4. A tone can also be called a whole step

Volume I, Chapter 3

1. The major scale contains 7 notes
2. The formula of tones and semitones used to get a major scale is:
TONE – TONE – SEMITONE – TONE – TONE – TONE – SEMITONE
3. The note we start the formula on is often called the root note or tonic
4. No, the pattern of tones/semitones cannot be changed! It must stay the same or the scale is not a major scale anymore
5. There are 12 major scales
6. All major scales apart from the C major scale contain at least one sharp or flat note. The key of C has no sharps or flats.
7. When you've played through the scale you end up on the starting note one octave higher

Volume I, Chapter 4

1. Triads are chords containing 3 notes
2. The formula for a major triad is Root + 3rd + 5th from a major scale
3. The formula for a minor triad is Root + b3rd + 5th from a major scale
4. The only difference between a major and minor triad is the flattened 3rd in the minor triad
5. The notes in the D major scale are: D E F# G A B C#. The notes in a D major triad are D F# and A. The notes in a D minor triad are D F and A

6. The notes in the Bb major scale are: Bb C D Eb F G A. The notes in a Bb major triad are Bb D and F. The notes in a Bb minor triad are Bb Db and F
7. Power chords or '5' chords are not triads because they only contain 2 notes
8. Power chords are neither major nor minor! They don't contain the 3rd or the b3rd so can be treated as either.

Volume I, Chapter 5

1. An interval is a way of describing the distance between two notes
2.
 - a. The 4th of D is G
 - b. The 7th of D is C#
 - c. The 3rd of D is F#
 - d. The 6th of D is B
 - e. The 2nd of D is E
 - f. The 5th of D is A
3.
 - a. A to D is the interval of a perfect 4th
 - b. A to G# is the interval of a major 7th
 - c. A to B is the interval of a major 2nd
 - d. A to E is the interval of a perfect 5th
 - e. A to C# is the interval of a major 3rd
 - f. A to F# is the interval of a major 6th
 - g. A to A is the interval of an octave

Volume I, Chapter 6

1. A chromatic interval is a major scale interval which has been sharpened or flattened
2. The notes in the D major scale are: D E F# G A B C#
 - a. The b3rd of D is F
 - b. The b7th of D is C
 - c. The #5th of D is A#
 - d. The b6th of D is Bb
 - e. The #2nd of D is E#
 - f. The b5th of D is Ab
 - g. The b2nd of D is Eb
 - h. The #4th of D is G#
3. The notes in the A major scale are: A B C# D E F# G#
 - a. A to Bb is a minor 2nd
 - b. A to G is a minor 7th
 - c. A to C is a minor 3rd
 - d. A to Eb is a diminished 5th

- e. A to D# is an augmented 4th
- f. A to F is a minor 6th
- g. A to E# is an augmented 5th

Volume I, Chapter 7

1. What key a song is in tells you what scale the 'raw material' used in the song comes from,
2. If a song is in the key of A major then usually most of the notes making up the melody, bass line and chords will be contained in the A major scale.
3. There are 12 major keys.
4. Each key has a 'chord family' containing 7 chords.
5. The scale these chords come from is often called the parent scale.

Volume I, Chapter 8

1. .
 - a. I is major
 - b. II is minor
 - c. III is minor
 - d. IV is major
 - e. V is major
 - f. VI is minor
 - g. VII is diminished
2. The chords in the key of D major are:
D major, E minor, F# minor, G major, A major, B minor, C# diminished
3. True or false?
 - a. In any major key triad chords I, IV and V are major. This is correct!
 - b. In any major key the II, IV and VI triad chords are minor. False! Chord IV is major not minor. Chords II, III and VI are minor!
 - c. Chord VII is a diminished triad. True!
 - d. The formula major, minor, minor, major, major, minor, diminished only works for figuring out the chords in the key of C. False! It works for all 12 major scales to give the chords in every major key!
4. The minor chord which is chord VI is the relative minor.
5. On guitar, the root of a major key's relative minor is found down 3 frets from the root of the major.

Volume I, Chapter 9

1. Using the chord/key chart to help, write out a I IV V chord sequence in the given keys:
 - a. I IV V in key of G: G C D

- b. I IV V in key of F: F Bb C
 - c. I IV V in key of A: A D E
2. Using the chord/key chart to help, write out a I VI II V chord sequence in the given keys:
 - a. I VI II V in key of D: D Bm Em A
 - b. I VI II V in key of E: E C#m F#m B
 - c. I VI II V in key of Db: Db Bbm Ebm Ab
3. Add Roman numerals to the following chords to describe the chord sequence in the given keys:
 - a. Key of G:

G///	C///	Bm///	Am/	D/
I	IV	III	II	V
 - b. Key of C:

C///	Am///	Dm///	G///
I	VI	II	V
 - c. Key of B:

G#m///	F#///	E///	B///
VI	V	IV	I

Volume I, Chapter 10

1. .
 - a. Pentatonic scales contain 5 notes
 - b. The two most common pentatonic scales are the minor and major pentatonic
 - c. The major pentatonic is like a major scale but without the 4th and 7th notes
 - d. These are removed. It is built on a major triad and used for playing in major keys
2. Here is an F major scale: F G A Bb C D E
The notes in F major pentatonic are: F G A C D
3. .
 - a. When soloing, the major pentatonic scale is commonly used in place of the major scale
 - b. The minor pentatonic is a 5 note scale with the formula: root, b3rd, 4th, 5th, b7th
 - c. It is built on a minor triad and used for playing in minor keys as well as over a 12 bar blues
4. Here is a C major scale: C D E F G A B
The notes in C minor pentatonic are C Eb F G Bb
5. The minor pentatonic scale is similar to the blues scale. The only difference is that the blues scale has an added b5th

Volume I, Chapter 11

1. The natural minor scale contains 7 notes
2. The interval formula for the natural minor scale is: Root – 2nd b3rd 4th 5th b6th b7th
3. The specific note or interval which makes the natural minor a minor type scale is the b3rd.
This is also known as the minor third.
4. The notes in the C natural minor scale are: C D Eb F G Ab Bb

5. The natural minor is sometimes called the Aeolian mode
6. The minor pentatonic scale is the same as the natural minor scale except the 2 and b6 are left out.

Volume 1, chapter 12

1. Just like major keys, each minor key has a chord family of 7 chords
2. These chords come from the parent natural minor scale
3. In any major key, chord VI is the relative minor. Knowing this is helpful because the 7 chords in the chord family for any major key and its relative minor key are the same.
4. Chord VI, B minor is the relative minor. So, the chords in the B minor chord family will be the same, but with Bm as chord I:

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Bm	C#dim	D	Em	F#m	G	A
5. In any minor key chord family:
 - a. Chords I, IV and V are minor
 - b. Chords III, VI and VII are major
 - c. Chord II is diminished.
6. Sometimes in minor key chord sequences the chord qualities change slightly. For example, sometimes chords IV or V are changed from minor to major to create a different sound.
7. The Roman numerals for each chord are:
 - a. C#m is I
 - b. E is III
 - c. A is VI
 - d. B is VII
 - e. The parent scale is C# natural minor scale
 - f. We could improvise or compose a melody over these chords using the notes in the C# natural minor scale. We could also use the C# minor pentatonic scale.