

Lesson 15

Common Notation

Rhythms that have **strong notes** (notes that are longer, higher, and so on) **off the beat** are **syncopated**.*
A syncopated rhythm is a **syncopation**.

Beats

Strong notes on the beat

Not Syncopated

Beats

Strong notes off the beat

Syncopated

Music Theory for Guitar

Every major key includes **3 major chords**.

These chords are often the most likely chords to show up in music in that key.

Tonic (I) chord based on the first scale note
Subdominant (IV) based on the fourth scale note
Dominant (V) based on the fifth scale note

C major

F major

G major

Improvisation

This is a good time to start **improvising**, making up a tune while you are playing.

Have your teacher, a friend, or a computer-based music generator play a G chord for several measures.

Make up a tune, in whatever style you like, using your no-open-strings G major scale.

You can use scale notes in a row or jump around. Be sure to play with strong, definite rhythms.

Notice which melody ideas fit best with the chord and sound good to you.

The most interesting **strum rhythms** are syncopated.

Beats

Strum direction

Chord Accompaniments

*Read more about syncopation: <http://cnx.org/content/m11644/latest/>