

# Root-Position Triad Basics -

A **triad** is a chord composed of three notes stacked in thirds.

The lowest note is called the **root**.

The note a third above the root is called the **third**.

The note a fifth above the root is called the **fifth**.



A triad in which the root is the lowest note is called a **root-position triad**.

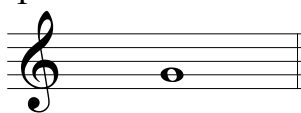
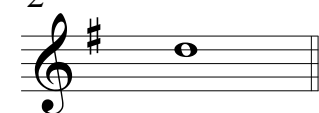
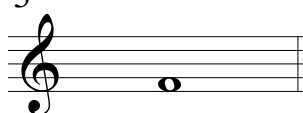
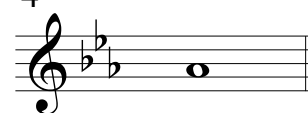
**Close position** indicates containment of all chord pitches within the smallest possible interval.

**Diatonic** indicates confinement to the pitches of the prevailing key without chromatic alteration.

Answers in this exercise are limited to **diatonic close root-position triads**.



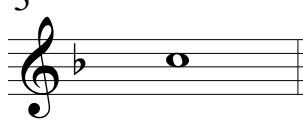
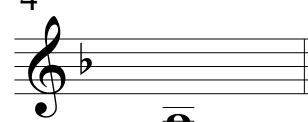
1. Each of the notes below is the root of a triad.

Draw a note a third above each root.

1 	2 	3 	4 
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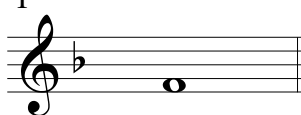

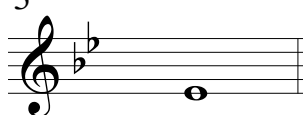

2. Each of the notes below is the root of a triad.

Draw a note a fifth above each root.

1 	2 	3 	4 
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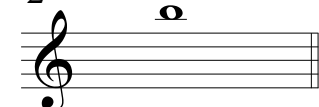
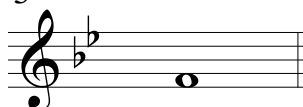

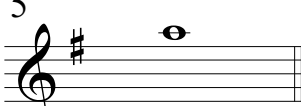



3. Each of the notes below is the root of a triad.

Draw the third and fifth above each root to create **close** root-position triads.

1 	2 	3 	4 
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4. Triad position is indicated for each of the notes below.

Add notes to create **close** root-position triads.

1  root	2  fifth	3  root	4  third
5  fifth	6  third	7  fifth	8  third