Chord Chart #2

Names of Strings

e - 1th String
b - 2nd String
g - 3rd String
D - 4th String
A - 5th String
E - 6th String

Understanding Whole and Half Steps

When naming the notes on your guitar you only need to remember two things. First, the names of your strings. Second, that there is only a half step between E and F, and B and C. Have a look at the diagram below. Notice that there is no black key between these two sets of notes. A half step on our guitar is a movement of one fret while a whole step is a movement of two frets. If you can understand this you can name the notes on any stringed instrument!

Quarter, Half, Dotted Half and Whole Notes

I just want to be clear about the differences between the different types of rhythmic notes we'll encounter in this series. This example takes place all on the "G" string. In the first measure we have two quarter notes. They are indicated by a small number with only a stem. You pluck and count "one." The the third note in the first measure is a half note indicated by a number, a stem, and a circle around that number. You pluck once and give two counts.

In the second measure the first note is a dotted half note indicated by a number, a stem, a circle, and a dot next to it. You pluck once and give three counts. The second and third notes in the second measure are two eighth notes. They have a number, a stem, and are beamed together. You count eighth notes by saying "1 &." In the last measure we have a whole note. It receives four counts and is indicated by a number, a circle around it, but NO stem.