

*Section 4.3***SPELLING TRIADS IN FOUR STEPS**

**Spelling triads
given the third or
the fifth**

Once you know how to spell triads on any root (see 4.2 **The Major Triads: Spell Them Quickly**), you can spell any triad given the third or fifth using these 4 steps:

STEP 1: Count down 3 or 5 letter names to find the root's letter name.

STEP 2: Build a major triad on the natural note from step 1.

STEP 3: Change the notes as needed to make the right quality of triad.

STEP 4: Transpose all notes using accidentals if needed.

**Examples given
the third**

Here are two examples given the **third** of the triad:

What dim. triad has C# as the third?

1. Count down three letters: C, B, A.

2. Build A major.

3. Make it dim.

4. Since C needs to be C#, raise all notes 1 half step.

What minor triad has F \flat as the third?

1. Count down three letters: F, E, D.

2. Build D major.

3. Make it minor.

4. Since F \flat needs to be F \flat , lower all notes 1 half step.

**Examples given
the fifth**

Here are two examples given the **fifth** of the triad:

What major triad has E# as the fifth?

1. Count down five letters: E, D, C, B, A.

2. Build A major.

3. Already major!

4. Since E needs to be E#, raise all notes 1 half step.

What aug. triad has B as the fifth?

1. Count down 5 letters: B, A, G, F, E.

2. Build E major.

3. Make it augmented.

4. Since B# needs to be B#, lower all notes 1 half step.