

Change on the Count: Open Guitar Chords

Name the shapes, prepare the next chord, then play through a steady count.

1 · NAME SIX SHAPES

Write **Em**, **Am** or **C** on each line. Notes beside each grid sound low to high.

String 6 is left; nut is top. o = open; x = omit/mute. Finger numbers are 1 index, 2 middle, 3 ring. Use the fingerings shown.

6 5 4 3 2 1

x o o o o o

1 2 3

E A D G B E

1. _____

C3
E3
G3
C4
E4

6 5 4 3 2 1

o o o o o o

1 2 3

E A D G B E

2. _____

E2
B2
E3
G3
B3
E4

6 5 4 3 2 1

x o o o o o

1 2 3

E A D G B E

3. _____

A2
E3
A3
C4
E4

6 5 4 3 2 1

o o o o o o

1 2 3

E A D G B E

4. _____

E2
B2
E3
G3
B3
E4

6 5 4 3 2 1

x o o o o o

1 2 3

E A D G B E

5. _____

C3
E3
G3
C4
E4

6 5 4 3 2 1

x o o o o o

1 2 3

E A D G B E

6. _____

A2
E3
A3
C4
E4

2 · LOOK ONE BAR AHEAD

Fill each **Next** box with the following bar's chord, even if unchanged. Each cell is one 4/4 bar; stop at bar 8.

A · Two bars per chord

Next: _____ Em bar 1	Next: _____ Em bar 2	Next: _____ Am bar 3	Next: _____ Am bar 4	Next: _____ Em bar 5	Next: _____ Em bar 6	Next: _____ Am bar 7	Next: STOP Am bar 8
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B · One bar per chord

Next: _____ Am bar 1	Next: _____ C bar 2	Next: _____ Am bar 3	Next: _____ C bar 4	Next: _____ Am bar 5	Next: _____ C bar 6	Next: _____ Am bar 7	Next: STOP C bar 8
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3 · PLAY, THEN LOG THE CHANGE

$\text{♩} = 60$

Em Am C Am



Downstrum on 1–2–3. On 4, gently rest your strumming hand across the strings to stop all ringing while you prepare the next chord. Lift it for the next 1. Practice that silent rest on one chord first. Em: strings 6→1.

Am / C: strings 5→1; keep string 6 silent. Repeat the four bars four times.

Rep	Em→Am	Am→C	C→Am
1			
2			
3			
4			

Record the four repetitions, then listen back and fill the log. Or ask a partner to mark the boxes while you play. Without a recording or partner, play and score one four-bar repetition at a time.

After playing: mark C (clean) if the new chord starts on beat 1, intended strings ring clearly, and string 6 stays silent in Am/C.

Otherwise mark W (needs work). Log the three changes inside each repetition; do not score the return to Em.

Try it Before playing, point through the chord sequence while counting. While playing, look ahead to the next chord before beat 4. If a change needs work, check its strings alone, then try again slowly.



Listen / check · quarter = 60 · 1: full piano model. 2: Piano pulse. Each has four piano count-in notes, then 16 practice bars. Count every group of four aloud. Synthesized piano pitches and timing; compare your own guitar's string clarity. Audio after publication: tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-change-on-the-count

Check (rotate sheet): shapes 1 C, 2 Em, 3 Am, 4 Em, 5 C, 6 Am. Next boxes A: Em, Am, C, STOP; B: C, Am, C, Am, C, STOP. Playing log: use the printed C/W rubric; there is no single score.