Triad Quality Sort

Classify three-note chords by two stacked thirds.

Name _____ Date _____

Read each chord from its root upward. Major: 4 then 3 half steps. Minor: 3 then 4. Diminished: 3 then 3. Augmented: 4 then 4. The distances in the table are between adjacent chord tones.

Chord	Root upward / adjacent distances
A	C-E-G / 4 then 3
B	D-F-A / 3 then 4
C	B-D-F / 3 then 3
D	C-E-G# / 4 then 4

Use the model above. Write a brief answer for each item.

1. Classify chord A.

2. Classify chord B.

3. Classify chord C.

4. Classify chord D.

5. How many half steps span root to top in C?

6. How many half steps span root to top in D?

7. Which two chords span seven half steps from root to top?

8. Does a seven-half-step outer span alone distinguish major from minor?

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A	C-E-G / 4 then 3
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C	B-D-F / 3 then 3
D	C-E-G# / 4 then 4

Use the model above. Write a brief answer for each item.

1. Classify chord A.

Major.

2. Classify chord B.

Minor.

3. Classify chord C.

Diminished.

4. Classify chord D.

Augmented.

5. How many half steps span root to top in C?

6: 3 + 3.

6. How many half steps span root to top in D?

8: 4 + 4.

7. Which two chords span seven half steps from root to top?

A and B.

8. Does a seven-half-step outer span alone distinguish major from minor?

No. Check the middle note as well.