

Guitar Terminology

Fingers of the right hand

p = pulgar (thumb)

i = indice (index)

m = medio (middle)

a = anular (ring)

c = chiquita (pinky)

Keeping the fingers of the right hand relaxed and curved into a natural shape will help to pluck the strings with minimal effort. The thumb remains behind the neck and is not numbered.

Fingers of the left hand

index = first finger

middle = second finger

ring = third finger

pinky = fourth finger

Keeping the fingers of the left hand in a relaxed claw-shaped will help to press the strings with the tips of the fingers. This 'pinching' of the string just beyond the frets will produce a clean tone.

Strings (smallest to largest, or floor to ceiling)

A simple rhyme may be used to remember the pitch names of the strings, such as:
Easter Bunny Goes Dancing At Easter

first string = **E** as in "Easter"

second = **B** as in "Bunny"

third = **G** as in "Goes"

fourth = **D** as in "Dancing"

fifth = **A** as in "At"

sixth = **E** as in "Easter"

Plucking

There are two methods of plucking strings with the fingers of the right hand:

- rest stroke (*apoyando*): the finger or thumb comes to rest on the adjacent string, muting it.
- free stroke (*tirando*): the finger or thumb does not come to rest on the adjacent string, allowing it to resonate.