



Explaining Relative Major and Minor -

Hearing the description of a 'relative major' or 'relative minor' scale can sound technical and daunting. With a little bit of practise, it can be an easy concept to get to grips with. Lets start by writing out the 7 notes of a C major scale -

C D E F G A B = **C Major Scale**

'Relative minor' means that a minor scale exists that contains exactly the same notes as a major scale. We can find the relative minor scale using the following system. Take the major scale and find the 6th note. In the case of the C major scale this is **A**. The A minor scale is the relative minor of C major scale. Let's write out the notes of a C major scale in alphabetical order but this time we will start on A -

A B C D E F G = **A Natural Minor Scale**

Let's try this in one more key (although you should try it in all of the keys!). Here is the A major scale -

A B C# D E F# G# = **A Major Scale**

If we find the 6th note and write out the scale in alphabetical order, we get -

F# G# A B C# D E = **F# Natural Minor Scale**

This process can be done in reverse. If we are starting with a natural minor scale and are looking for the relative major, take the 3rd note of the minor scale and use this as your starting point.

E F# G A B C D = **E Natural Minor Scale**

G A B C D E F# = **G Major Scale**