How to play piano chords with absolutely NO knowledge of how to read music.

From: http://www.roamstarmusic.com/

I will keep this as simple as I can, while showing you how to play all twelve Major, and all twelve Minor chords, in less than twelve minutes!

The piano keyboard consists of white keys, and black keys.

Place a finger on the Middle C Key

(This is a white key, immediately to the left of a group of two black keys, nearest the middle of the piano keyboard, as shown, below:

Each time you move from one key, to the one, immediately to its right, you are raising the pitch of the note, by one semitone, or half step.

In every major chord, there are only three different notes to play.

If we give each key a number e.g. C=1, C# (the black key immediately to the right of C) =2,

The next white key, D=3, and so on, until we get to 8 (G), and then pick key numbers 1, 5 and 8, and play those three keys at the same time, we will be playing the notes, C, E and G.

This is a C Major chord.

It's as simple as that!
Now pick any random key (black or white) and this is your 1 key.

Count up in semitones to 5, then 8, and you now have a major chord whose name will be the same as the 1 note you picked.

This same pattern (1, 5, 8) is used for all 12 major chords.

Minor chords, sometimes thought of as sad sounding chords, are constructed in a similar way.

The difference is that instead of playing a 1,5,8 pattern, we now use a 1,4,8 pattern.

So, for example, a C minor chord consists of the notes C, E flat and G

So, now you can play all 12 major and all 12 minor chords, without knowing how to read a single note of music!

Just remember:  
**Major chord = 1, 5, 8**  
**Minor chord = 1, 4, 8**

All of the chords above start on what is called the 'Root Note' in other words the lowest note is the name of the chord.

Here are some other types of chord:

- Major 7\(^\text{th}\) (Maj7) = 1, 5, 8, 12
- Dominant 7\(^\text{th}\) (e.g. C7) = 1, 5, 8, 11
- Suspended (e.g. Csus4) = 1, 6, 8
- Minor 7\(^\text{th}\) (m7) = 1, 4, 8, 11
- Diminished (e.g. Cdim, or C\(0\)) = 1, 4, 7
- Augmented (e.g. C aug, or C+) = 1, 5, 9

Again, these are all 'Root Position' chords. There are many other types of chord, and many different ways to play them, but this should at least get you started.