There are four kinds of triads and here's how they function in major and minor. There are major triads (upper case roman numerals) with a major third from root to chord member third and minor third from chord member third to chord member fifth.

There are minor triads (lower case roman numerals) with a minor third from root to chord member third and a major third from chord member third to chord member fifth.

There are diminished triads (lower case roman numeral with superscript "degree" sign) with a minor third from root to chord member third and a minor third from chord member third to chord member fifth.

There are augmented triads (upper case roman numeral with superscript "plus" sign) with a major third from root to choard member third and a major third from chord member third to chord member fifth.



remember this rule-of-thumb: major and minor triads are stable; diminished and augmented triads are unstable. One reason for this is that major and minor triads are asymmetrical; diminished and augmented triads are symmetrical.

In terms of numbers of half steps you might also remember that major triads = 4 + 3; minor triads = 3 + 4; diminished triads = 3 + 3; augmented triads = 4 + 4.