

Chord functions

- The word “Tonic” refers to the first degree of a scale.
- The word “Subdominant” refers to the fourth degree of a scale.
- The word “Dominant” refers to the fifth degree of a scale.
- Chords built on the **Tonic**, progress to chords built on the **Subdominant**, but may also progress directly to chords built on the **Dominant**.
- Chords built on the **Subdominant**, progress to chords built on the **Dominant**, but may also return to chords built on the **Tonic**.
- Chords built on the **Dominant**, progress to chords built on the **Tonic**, but may also return to chords built on the **Subdominant**.
- Chords built on degrees of a scale other than 1, 4, and 5, may **function** as Tonic, Subdominant, or Dominant chords.

	Chords that can function as <i>Tonic</i> chords	Chords that can function as <i>Subdominant</i> chords	Chords that can function as <i>Dominant</i> chords
Major	I iii (depending on context)	IV ii vi	V vii dim
minor	i	iv VI	V vii dim

- Chords functioning as Subdominant may progress to other chords functioning as Subdominant.
- Likewise, Chords functioning as Dominant may progress to other chords functioning as Dominant.

