

Cadences

- A “cadence” is a progression of two (usually, but sometimes three) chords, used to complete a musical phrase.
- The end of a phrase can sound as though the music is either finished or unfinished.
- There are two kinds of “finished” cadences, and two kinds of “unfinished” cadences.

“Finished” cadences		“Unfinished” cadences	
Perfect	Plagal	Interrupted	Imperfect
from V to I in Major, from V to i in minor	from IV to I in Major, from iv to i in minor	from V to vi in Major, from V to VI in minor	from anything to V in both Major and minor

- Cadences are usually preceded by a chord functioning as Subdominant (IV, ii, or vi in Major keys, or iv or VI in minor keys).
- Perfect cadences are often preceded by a II chord in first inversion (in Major keys), or a I or i chord in second inversion (in Major and minor keys respectively).