

Cadences & Chords

Cadences for Grade 6

- Simply identify the cadence at the end of phrase as perfect or imperfect
 - The phrase will be in a major or minor key
 - The chords in the cadence will be in root position

Cadences & Chords for Grade 7

- Identify the cadence at the end of phrase as perfect, imperfect or interrupted
 - The phrase will be in a major or minor key
- Identify the two chords used in the cadence
 - The chords in the cadence will be in root position

Cadences & Chords for Grade 8

- Identify the cadence at the end of phrase as perfect, plagal, imperfect or interrupted
 - The phrase will be in a major or minor key
- Identify the three chords used in the cadence in various positions
 - The chords will be limited to:
 - I (root position, 1st inversion, 2nd inversion)
 - II (root position or 1st inversion)
 - IV (root position)
 - V (root position, 1st inversion, 2nd inversion)
 - V⁷ (root position)
 - VI (root position)

Common Chords at Cadences

Effect	Cadence Type	Common Chords	Bass Movement
Strong and final; full close; full stop	Perfect	V-I V ⁷ -I	falls 5 th or rises 4 th
Final but gentle because tonic appears in both chords, like an 'amen' in a hymn; no leading note so no tension	Plagal	IV-I	rises 5 th or falls a 4 th
Incomplete; half close; needs another phrase to finalise it; comma	Imperfect	I-V IV-V II-V IIb-V Ic-V	I-V rises 5 th or falls 4 th IV-V rises a 2 nd II-V falls 5 th or rises 4 th IIb-V rises a 2 nd Ic-Va bass remains still
Unexpected; needs another phrase to finalise it; question mark	Interrupted	V-VI V ⁷ -VI	rises by tone in major keys rises by semitone in minor keys

Possible Chords	second inversion		Vc			Ic		
	first inversion			Ib	IIb			Vb
	root position	Ia	IIa		IVa	Va or V ⁷ a	VIa	
Bass note	tonic	supertonic	mediant	subdominant	dominant	submediant	leading note	
Bass note in C major	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	