

General Musicianship and Studio Techniques

Week 5 - Cadences

Four Main Types of Cadences

Finished

- Perfect (authentic)
- Plagal

Unfinished

- Imperfect (half-)
- Interrupted (deceptive)

Perfect Cadence

Resource - Cadences in Music

Perfect Cadence

V - I

C major



V - I

C minor



V - I

The **perfect cadence** (also known as the **authentic cadence**) moves from chord V to chord I (this is written V-I). It is the cadence that sounds the “most finished”.

Perfect Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Perfect Cadence

V - I

C major



V - I

C minor



V - I



Here is an example of a perfect cadence in C major. Notice how the chords at the end of the phrase go from V (G) - I (C) and it sounds finished.

Perfect Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Perfect Cadence

V - I

C major

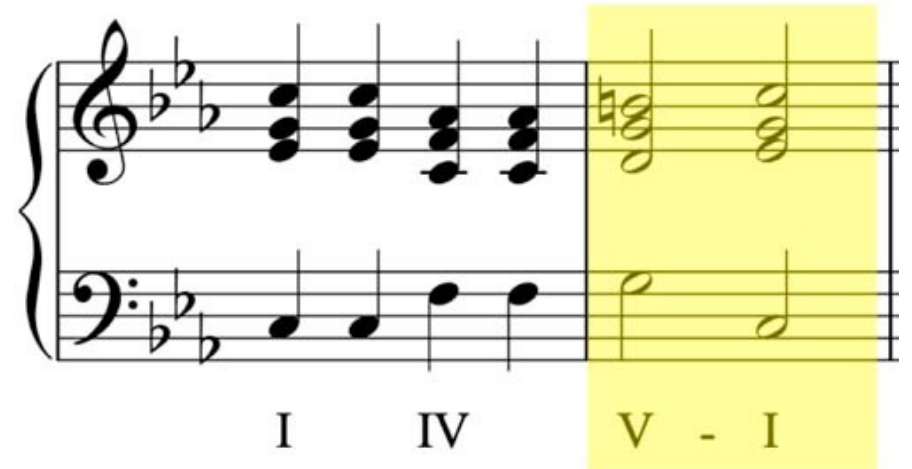


V - I

C minor



V - I



Here is an example of a perfect cadence in C minor

Plagal Cadence

Resource - Cadences in Music

Plagal Cadence

IV - I

C major



IV - I

C minor



IV - I

A Plagal Cadence moves from chord IV to chord I (IV-I). It is sometimes called the “*Amen Cadence*” because the word “*Amen*” is set to it at the end of many traditional hymns.

Plagal Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Plagal Cadence

IV - I

C major

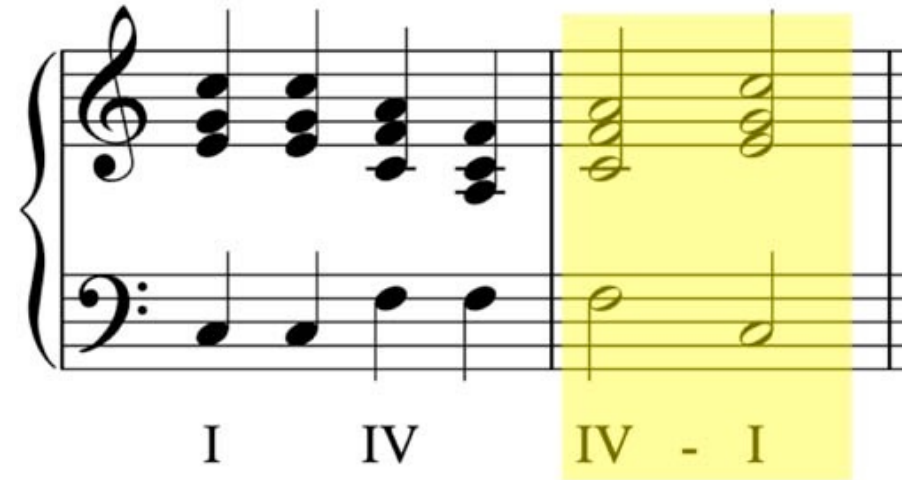


IV - I

C minor



IV - I



Have a look at and listen to this example of a plagal cadence in C major

Plagal Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Plagal Cadence

IV - I

C major

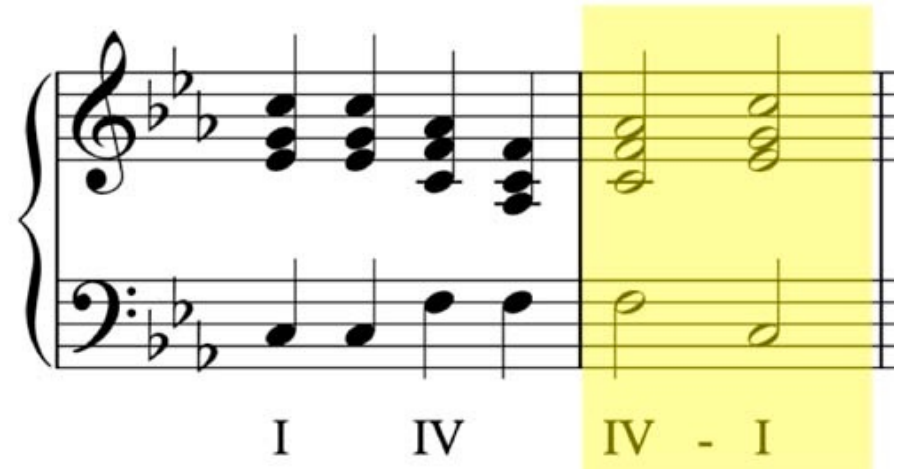


IV - I

C minor



IV - I



Have a look at and listen to this example of a plagal cadence in C minor

Perfect and Plagal Cadence

Resource - Cadences in Music

Perfect Cadence

V - I

C major C minor

V - I V - I

The image shows two musical staves for a perfect cadence. The first staff is for C major, showing a G4-G5 dyad in the treble and a C3-C4 dyad in the bass. The second staff is for C minor, showing a G4-G5 dyad in the treble and a C3-C4 dyad in the bass, with a flat sign on the G4 note.

Plagal Cadence

IV - I

C major C minor

IV - I IV - I

The image shows two musical staves for a plagal cadence. The first staff is for C major, showing a C4-E4 dyad in the treble and a C3-C4 dyad in the bass. The second staff is for C minor, showing a C4-E4 dyad in the treble and a C3-C4 dyad in the bass, with flat signs on the C4 and E4 notes.

- Both the perfect and plagal cadences sound finished because they end on chord I, but they each have their own characteristic sound.
- The perfect cadence has a very *definite* finish to it, whilst the plagal cadence is a *softer* finish.

Imperfect Cadence

Resource - Cadences in Music

Imperfect Cadence

I/II/IV - V

C major



I - V

C minor



I - V

An imperfect cadence or half cadence ends on chord V. It can start on chord I, II or IV.

Imperfect Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Imperfect Cadence

I/II/IV - V

C major

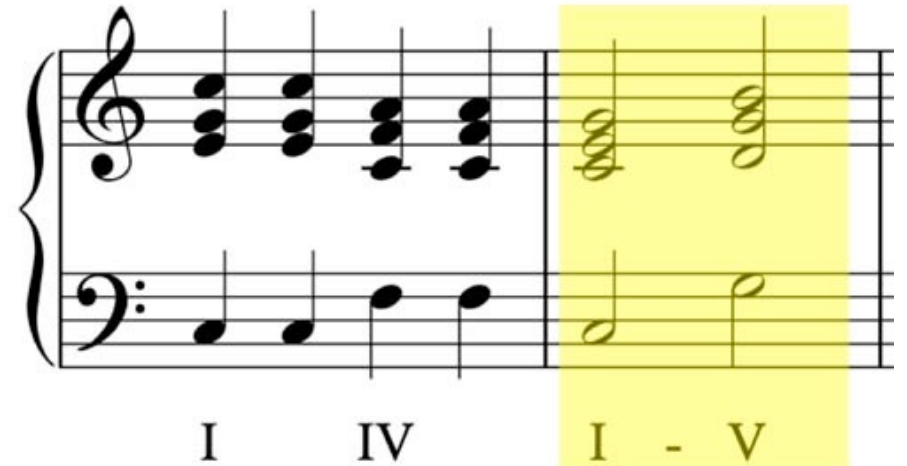


I - V

C minor



I - V



Have a listen to this example of an imperfect cadence in C major. Notice how the last 2 chords are I (C) followed by V (G).

Imperfect Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Imperfect Cadence

I/II/IV - V

C major

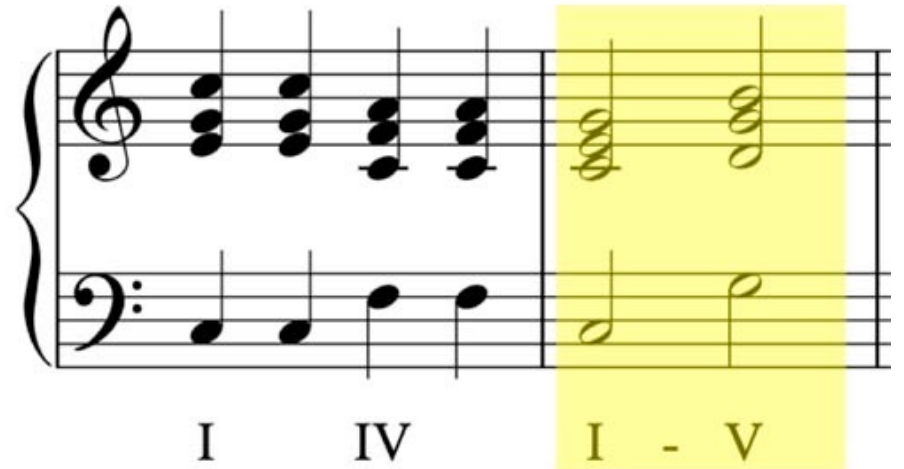


I - V

C minor



I - V



The music clearly sounds like it should continue

Imperfect Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Imperfect Cadence

I/II/IV - V

C major

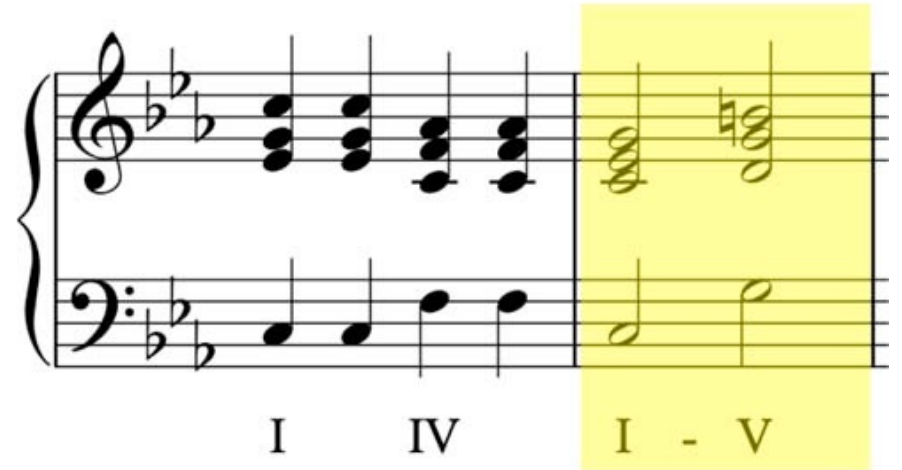


I - V

C minor



I - V



Here is an example of an imperfect cadence in C minor

Interrupted Cadence

Resource - Cadences in Music

Interrupted Cadence

V - VI



V - VI



V - VI

An interrupted cadence or deceptive cadence ends on an unexpected chord - the music literally does sound like it has been “interrupted”.

The most common chord progression you will come across is from chord V to chord VI (V-VI).

Interrupted Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Interrupted Cadence

V - VI

C major



The musical notation for the C major interrupted cadence (V - VI) is shown. The treble clef staff contains two chords: G4-B4 (V) and A4-C5 (VI). The bass clef staff contains two notes: G2 (V) and A2 (VI).

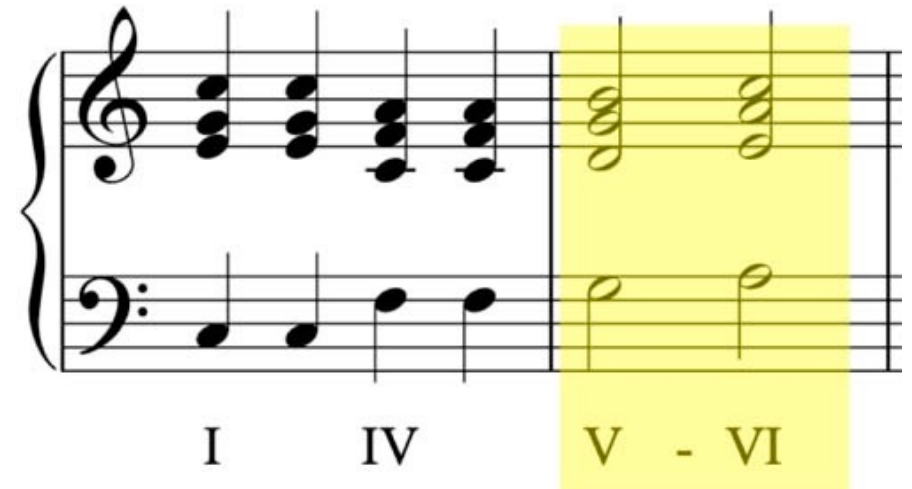
V - VI

C minor



The musical notation for the C minor interrupted cadence (V - VI) is shown. The treble clef staff contains two chords: G4-Bb4 (V) and Ab4-C5 (VI). The bass clef staff contains two notes: G2 (V) and Ab2 (VI).

V - VI



The musical notation for an interrupted cadence in C major is shown. The treble clef staff contains four chords: C4-E4 (I), F4-A4 (IV), G4-B4 (V), and A4-C5 (VI). The bass clef staff contains four notes: C2 (I), F2 (IV), G2 (V), and A2 (VI). The last two chords (V - VI) are highlighted in yellow.

I IV V - VI



In this example of an interrupted cadence in C major below, the last 2 chords are V (G) and VI (A minor).

Interrupted Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Interrupted Cadence

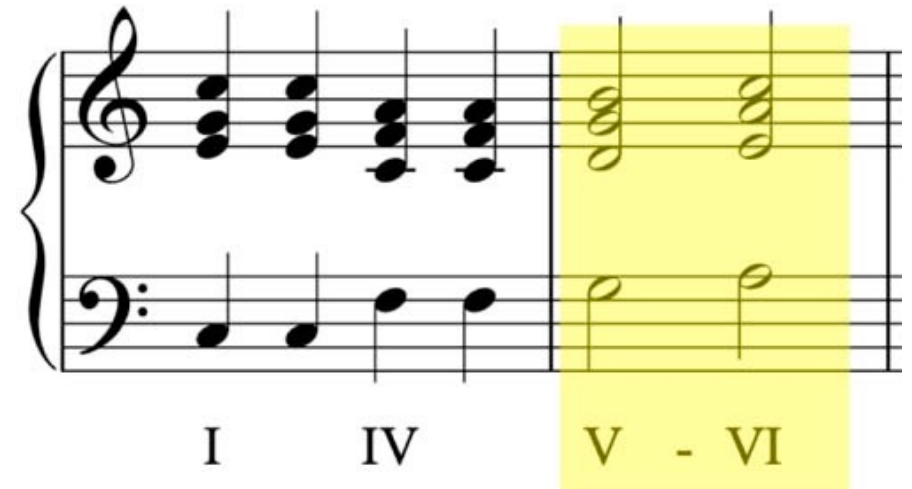
V - VI



V - VI



V - VI



Note how frustrating it sounds that the music doesn't continue.

The music very much sounds as though it has been "*interrupted*".

Interrupted Cadence

Resource - [Cadences in Music](#)

Interrupted Cadence

V - VI

C major



Musical notation for C major V - VI cadence. The treble clef shows a C4-C5 dyad (middle C and one octave above) for both chords. The bass clef shows a C3-C4 dyad (two octaves below middle C and one octave below) for both chords. The first chord is C major (C-E-G) and the second is F major (F-A-C).

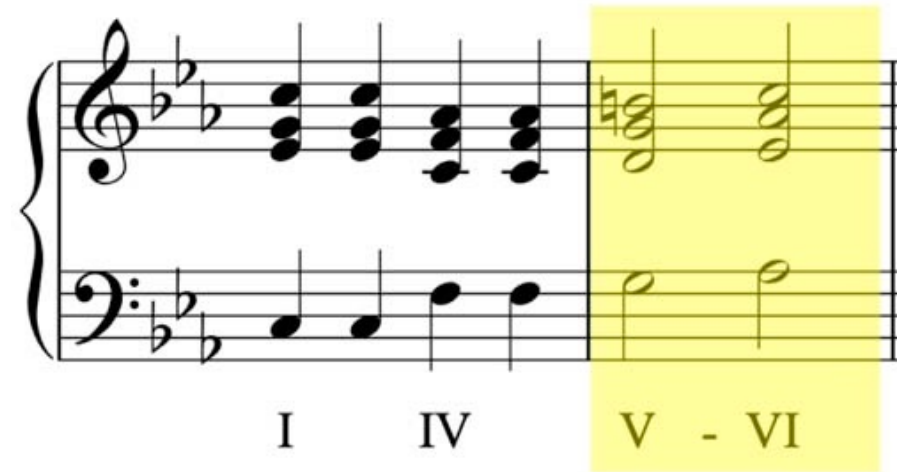
V - VI

C minor



Musical notation for C minor V - VI cadence. The treble clef shows a C4-C5 dyad (middle C and one octave above) for both chords. The bass clef shows a C3-C4 dyad (two octaves below middle C and one octave below) for both chords. The first chord is C minor (C-Eb-G) and the second is F major (F-A-C).

V - VI



Musical notation for an interrupted cadence in C minor. The treble clef shows a sequence of chords: C minor (C-Eb-G), F major (F-A-C), C minor (C-Eb-G), and F major (F-A-C). The bass clef shows a sequence of notes: C3, Eb3, G3, and A3. The final two measures, showing the C minor (V) and F major (VI) chords, are highlighted in yellow.

I IV V - VI



Here is an interrupted cadence in C minor.

Imperfect and Interrupted Cadence

Resource - Cadences in Music

Imperfect Cadence

I/II/IV - V

C major C minor

I - V I - V

Interrupted Cadence

V - VI

C major C minor

V - VI V - VI

- Both the imperfect and interrupted cadences sound unfinished because they do not end on chord I - our home key.
- The imperfect cadence feels like it needs to continue and the interrupted cadence comes to a halt.

Summary of Cadences

Finished

- Perfect (authentic)
- Plagal

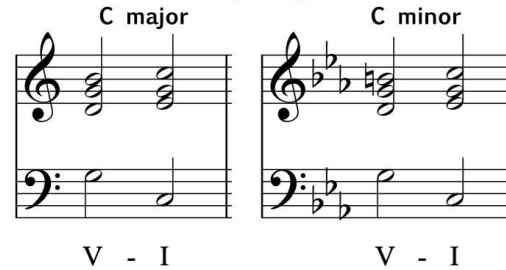
Unfinished

- Imperfect (half-)
- Interrupted (deceptive)

Perfect Cadence

V - I

C major C minor

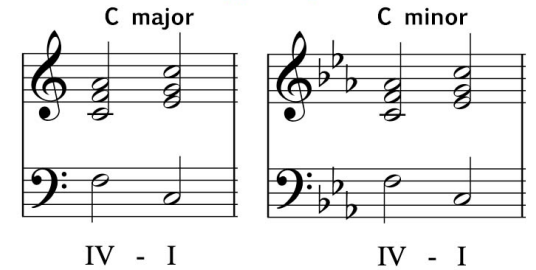


V - I V - I

Plagal Cadence

IV - I

C major C minor

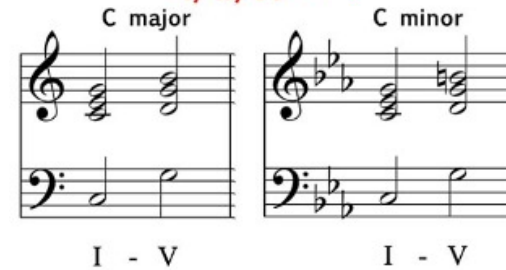


IV - I IV - I

Imperfect Cadence

I/II/IV - V

C major C minor

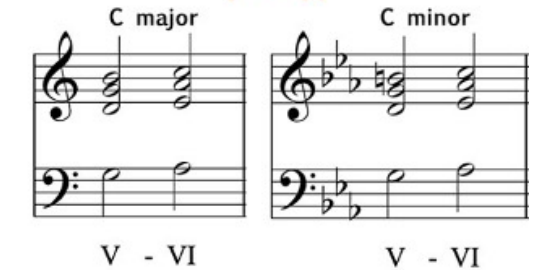


I - V I - V

Interrupted Cadence

V - VI

C major C minor



V - VI V - VI

General Musicianship and Studio Techniques

Week 5 - Introduction to SATB



[A Beginner's Guide to Four-Part Harmony - Music Theory \(Music Matters, 2020\)](#)

Diatonic 4-part Harmony

Task:

- On Moodle open Week 5- Diatonic 4-Part Harmony
 - Open Score
- Fill in the missing notes

General Musicianship and Studio Techniques

Week 5 - Transposition

Transposing

Task:

- On Moodle open Week 5 - Transposition Exercise

Transpose to the following:

- Up a minor 3rd
- Down a major 2nd
- Up a perfect 5th
- Down a minor 7th

Complete in C major and fill in relevant sharps
and flats