

Cadences

Cadences are chord patterns that create a feeling of rest...or at least pause. They are most effective when they are placed at points in the song where the audience is ready to rest. That's why they're often put at the ends of phrases and especially at the end of the song.

Authentic cadences move from the 5 chord to the 1 chord. These are the most convincing, especially when the 5 chord is dominant!

Deceptive cadences go from the 5 chord anywhere besides the 1. They are deceptive because the 5 chord naturally leads 1.

Plagal cadences move from the 4 chord to the 1 chord. This is also known as the "amen" cadence, because older church songs often end with this cadence. The congregation sings "A...." (4 chord) "....men" (on the 1)

Imperfect cadences move from any chord to the 5 chord. These are horrible for ending a song, but make for a nice pause somewhere in the middle.



	Authentic		Plagal		Deceptive		Imperfect	
	5	1	4	1	5	?	?	5
In the key of C	G	C	F	C	G	?	?	G
In the key of D ^b	A ^b	D ^b	G ^b	D ^b	A ^b	?	?	A ^b
In the key of D	A	D	G	D	A	?	?	A
In the key of E ^b	B ^b	E ^b	A ^b	E ^b	B ^b	?	?	B ^b
In the key of E	B	E	A	E	B	?	?	B
In the key of F	C	F	B ^b	F	C	?	?	C
In the key of G ^b	D ^b	G ^b	C ^b	G ^b	D ^b	?	?	D ^b
In the key of G	D	G	C	G	D	?	?	D
In the key of A ^b	E ^b	A ^b	D ^b	A ^b	E ^b	?	?	E ^b
In the key of A	E	A	D	A	E	?	?	E
In the key of B ^b	F	B ^b	E ^b	B ^b	F	?	?	F
In the key of B	F#	B	E	B	F#	?	?	F#