

Authentic and Half Cadences - Cheat Sheet

Cadence = a stopping or pausing place in the music; the end of a musical phrase.

Half Cadence (HC) = a cadence that ends on V. It can be approached from several different places

Authentic Cadence = V-I (dominant-tonic) motion. It comes in 2 flavors:

Perfect Authentic Cadence (PAC) - the bass has to be in root position for the V and I chords
the soprano has to end on scale degree 1.

Imperfect Authentic Cadence (IAC) - one (or both) of the two conditions for PACs are not met.

** Important note - not every V-I motion qualifies as a cadence. It has to feel like the end of a phrase.

A half cadence is weaker than a IAC, which is weaker than a PAC

Piano

D: I⁶ V Ab: V I C#m: V⁶ i V i

HC PAC IAC (bass is not root pos.) IAC (sop. doesn't end on s.d. 1)

friendly reminder: always show the key, otherwise the roman numerals mean nothing...