

iii, vi, VII, and Deceptive Cadence - Cheat Sheet

In major, iii is used very sparingly. You will mostly see it as part of a circle progression.
vi is also used less often, but it is found more than iii. You should follow it with a predominant, then a dominant, then the tonic.

Piano

C: I V₂⁴ iii vi ii⁷ V⁷ I

root motion = 5th through this passage. This is a circle progression. Note that they don't have to be in root position to be a circle progression.

Pno.

a: i VII III VI i⁴₆ V⁷ i

In minor, III is used more often, as it is the tonic of the relative major. It is often preceded by VII, which, because of the V-I relationship, **tonicizes** the III chords (makes us feel like we've moved to that key for a moment).

III is often still resolved through a circle progression.

Deceptive Cadence - any time there's a cadential moment where V is not followed by I.
vi is usually used as the substitute, and followed with ii/IV->V->I

Pno.

I ii⁵₆ V vi ii⁶ V⁷ I

This is the deceptive motion