

You will hear the scale first so that you can hear the **tonic reference**. Distinguishing between tonic and dominant triads is a matter of remembering what the tonic sound is and deciding if that is the sound you hear. Moreover, when listening for tonic-to-dominant progressions, you will be able to distinguish whether the sound you hear is harmonically closed or open.

Stopping on a dominant triad leaves the harmony open or unfinished, and a passage of music that starts on the tonic and stops on the dominant (I–V) will sound incomplete. The V–I progression, on the other hand, sounds harmonically closed or finished. However, be careful to focus on the bass because there are many passages of music that end V–I but do not sound fully closed: the melody has not yet reached the tonic scale degree. This is another construct that will become clearer in later chapters when we discuss cadences.

To notate the harmonies, remember that a major tonic uses upper case Roman numeral I while minor uses the lower case i. In both major and minor keys, the dominant is represented by upper case Roman numeral V, as it is always major. (The reason for this will be clarified in the next chapter where we deal with the harmonic form of the minor scale and the reason for its existence.)

Exercises

1. Your instructor will play a major or minor scale and then play either the tonic or dominant triad in root position. Sing the lowest note of the triad and decide whether it is the tonic or dominant. Alternatively, specify the harmony being played without singing the root.
2. Your instructor will play a major or minor scale and then play two triads. Distinguish whether the progression you hear is I(i)–V, V–I(i), V–V, or I(i)–I(i).
3. Your instructor will play a major or minor scale and then play a series of five triads using only tonic and dominant harmonies. Write out the bass line in scale degrees and the harmonic analysis in Roman numerals for each example.

Harmonic Dictation 1-1

Harmonic Dictation 1-2



C: 1 5 1 1 5
I V I I V

d: 1 1 5 5 1
i i V V i

Harmonic Dictation 1-3



F: 1 5 1 5 1
I V I V I



Audio files for these transcription exercises may be found online at www.oupcanada.com/Ethier

ASSIGNMENTS



Complete Assignment 1, found at the end of the book, and Online Assignment 1, found at www.oupcanada.com/Ethier.