

5.4 Simple Part Forms

Part = section or division; sections marked by cadences (often PACs);
use lower case letters to label these sections.

- One-part form → one PAC (excluding those in repetitions); see “smaller structural units” for examples.
- Two-part or binary form: ab (also aab, aabb, abb; IRDNATF¹)
 - a - Phrase, double period, period, phrase group, etc. – ends w/PAC in I or closely related key
 - b - Phrase, double period, period, phrase group, etc. – ends w/PAC in I nearly always; may have a coda
- Rounded binary ab¹/₂a → like ternary, except that only ½ of “a” returns; “diet ternary.”
- Simple ternary or ternary form: aba (also ababa, aaba, aababa; IRDNATF)
 - a - Ends w/PAC in I or closely related key.
 - b - New themes or based on “a”
 - i. Often will not be a definite period or phrase group
 - ii. Often modulates away from I
 - iii. Often ends w/half cadence, leading to third section.
 - a - (again) in original tonic; exact or modified return
- Five-part (abaca) and seven-part (abacaba and abacada) simple forms are also possible, though not as common.
- Auxiliary sections are sometimes present:
 - **Introductions** prepare the piece before the first main section
 - **Transitions** move smoothly from one section to the next;
 - i. often modulatory
 - ii. may anticipate upcoming material (anticipatory transition)
 - iii. may include a dissolution or gradual “falling apart” of previous material
 - iv. usually not diagrammable.
 - **Retransitions** prepare a return to previously heard material; often emphasize V
 - **Codas** confirm the tonic arrivals, often with a tonic pedal point or V-I or IV-I
 - **Codettas** extend cadences at the end of sections, esp. the first “A” or “a” section.

¹ Immediate Repetition Does NOT Alter The Form.