

An Idea, Its Repeat, and a Push to the End

In this eight-bar sentence model, a two-bar basic idea repeats, then shorter units lead toward a cadence.

1 · HEAR ONE IDEA BECOME A SENTENCE

C major · 4/4 · quarter = 80 throughout. Numbers above the staff identify every bar.

Roman numerals name supporting **chords**, not melody notes; parentheses give bass pitches, aligned below each bar.



2 · GIVE EACH PART A JOB

Here, the four-bar presentation contains the basic idea and its repeat. The continuation builds momentum while the tempo stays the same.

Presentation · bars 1-4

Idea: 1-2. Exact repeat: 3-4.

Tonic support: I throughout.

Continuation · bars 5-8

Fragmentation · activity increases · **2-beat units** in 5-6.

Chords change every 2 beats in bar 7.

Chord tones: I/I6 = C-E-G; vi = A-C-E; ii = D-F-A; IV = F-A-C; V = G-B-D; V7 = G-B-D-F. The basic idea lasts 8 beats. In bar 7, bass E3 → G2 leads to C3 in bar 8; melody D4 → C4 supports the authentic close. Bar 4 has no supplied dominant-tonic cadence. Other sentences may use different lengths or continuation features.

3 · COMPARE A PERIOD

A period pairs an antecedent ending with a weaker cadence and a consequent ending with a stronger cadence. In this four-plus-four-bar model, the antecedent ends with a half cadence on V and the consequent with a perfect authentic cadence on I.

Antecedent · bars 1-4 · half cadence



Consequent · bars 5-8 · perfect authentic cadence



The consequent repeats bars 1-2 in bars 5-6, then changes in bars 7-8 to reach the stronger cadence.

Try it: Mark the basic idea and its repeat. Bracket each two-beat fragment in bars 5-6. How many beats long is the basic idea?

Listen: tissimo.co/worksheets/sentence-basic-idea-continuation

Neutral piano models · melody, harmony, full sentence and period



Key: idea bars 1-2; repeat bars 3-4. Two fragments per bar in 5-6. Each two-note fragment lasts 2 beats; the original basic idea lasts 8 beats.