

Hearing Chords

Music

Learning to name a chord and a progression by ear.

Builds on interval training — chords are intervals stacked.

1

Major vs minor

Only these two, until it is instant. The third is the note to listen for.

2

Add diminished and augmented

Both are unstable; diminished sounds tense, augmented sounds unresolved.

3

Sevenths

Dominant vs major 7th. One wants to move, the other does not.

4

Bass movement

Follow only the lowest note through a progression. It carries the function.

5

Name progressions in numbers

I-V-vi-IV, not C-G-Am-F. Numbers transfer to every key.

PRACTICE SOURCE

Use songs you already know

Find the root by humming

Check on an instrument afterwards

Absolute pitch is rare and not required. Relative pitch — hearing the relationships — is learnable by anyone.