

Music Theory MMT 112 – 115: A Reminder About Voice-Leading, Chord Construction, and My Markings

1: Mistakes that result in points being subtracted.

Mark	Meaning	Notes
P8, P5, P1	Parallel 8, 5, 1	Forbidden parallel motions
H8, H5	Hidden 8, 5	Forbidden in the outer voices when the soprano moves by leap
LT →	Leading Tone	The leading tone isn't properly resolved
7 →	7th of a seventh chord	The 7th hasn't resolved properly (i.e., downwards and by step.) Remember that I use the term "7th" for the note as it would be in root position.
WN	Wrong note	This one speaks for itself, I think
WN (x)	Wrong notes	The number in parentheses is the number of notes counted wrong. (This one's really just a shorthand.)
inc - no 'x'	Incomplete, no 'x'	The 'x' is the missing note that should be there, i.e., "inc - no 3rd" would indicate no 3rd in the chord. I am always referring to the intervals above the bass.
inc - no root	Incomplete, no root	A chord which is missing its root
cross-relation	Cross-relation	A chromatic motion which is spread across several voices, and becomes a 9th, 7th, etc., instead of a half-step.
8, 5 by C.M.	Octaves or Fifths by contrary motion	A parallel octave or fifth, but reached by contrary rather than parallel motion.
roots backwards	Roots backwards	In a series of predominant chords, the roots of the chords must stay the same or descend.

Mark	Meaning	Notes
resolve →	Resolution	Some kind of resolution hasn't been made—often this refers to an unresolved dominant.
'x' disappears	A note disappears that shouldn't have	Typically this occurs if you drop the 7th of a chord off a cliff—say, by writing V7 - V
sp	Spacing	Spacing error; no more than an octave between SA, or AT. (Larger distances are OK between bass and tenor.)
# (or some other acc.)	Accidental missing	You forgot the accidental
Missing 'x'	Missing figure	Your chord misses a note that is specified in the figures. Sometimes I just circle the figure in question.
dLT	Doubled leading tone	Never double your leading tone, remember.
X	Incorrect analysis	Your roman/arabic numeral analysis is incorrect. (Often I will scribble in the correct one.)
.	Missing notes	I write in dots for any notes that are missing—say you just don't set a chord or whatnot. Each dot counts as an error.

2. No points subtracted for these, but you should be careful about them anyway

Mark	Meaning	Notes
awk	Awkward	There's nothing technically wrong, but the passage is poorly written, amateurish.
VERY awk	Very awkward	Intensifies the previous; get one of these and hang your head in shame.
R	Rhythm	There is a rhythmic inconsistency of some sort; usually it means the upper voices are written with different time values than the bass.
Boring	Boring	You've written a soprano line of convenience, one that serves the voice-leading, but without paying any attention to its musical shape.

3. The absolute worst two things you can do:

Thing	Why
1: Not hand anything in.	You'll get a 0%, which has a devastating impact on a grade average.
2: Hand it in, but incomplete.	I'm really downright unreasonable about this. Every single missing note is counted as an error, and in the case of analysis, I'll take an arbitrary (but significant) chunk of your grade.