


Diatonic Chord Progressions

A sequence of chords that stays in one key is called a **diatonic chord progression**. The table below shows the stability of chords in a key and which chords they can go to. A strong progression starts or ends on a stable chord. A chord can also be played more than once in a progression.

<i>Stable</i>  <i>Unstable</i>	I	→	Anything
	vi	→	ii, IV, V, I
	IV	→	I, V, vi, iii
	V	→	I, IV, vi
	iii	→	vi, I, IV, ii
	ii	→	iii, V, IV

Sample Progressions

Here are some sample progressions created using the table above. Examples are written using roman numerals and letters in the key of C.

Starts stable

Ends stable

vi V IV iii iii I vi IV
 Am G F Em Em C Am F

Remember lower case roman numerals are minor chords and capital roman numerals are major chords.