FREE SAMPLE · CASE 1

Piano Note Detective

Home Chord, Away Chord & First Lead Sheets

Every key has a home chord and an away chord. Find them in C, G and F, build a full G7, hear which chord a tune ends on, and play your first lead sheets with roots and chord tones.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: home and away
- Find I and V in three keys
- Build the away chords
- Answers with reasons



A lead sheet: the tune with chord symbols above it.

1. **Find the key**
2. **Home chord: note 1**
3. **Away chord: note 5**
4. **Play with roots**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For students who build major and minor triads · Five sittings of about 15 minutes · With a piano and a grown-up

How the case file works

Five cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a student who builds major and minor triads. In a major key, the chord built on the first note is the home chord (I, the tonic); the chord built on the 5th note is the away chord (V, the dominant), often with a 7th added (V7). Lead sheets show a tune with chord symbols above it; the player adds the chords. Case 3 needs a grown-up to play endings on a piano.

EACH CASE

The story	Read it aloud together. It says what the detective is looking for.
Learn	The rule for this case, with a picture. Point at it while you read it.
Tasks	Short tasks that use the rule. Each one has a single right answer (except play tasks).
Clue	The last task gives a clue for the final question.

YOU NEED

- A pencil
- A piano or keyboard
- A grown-up for the listening case
- The chord cards at the back (cut out)

GOOD TO KNOW

- Home in C: C. Away: G (or G7). In G: G and D (D7). In F: F and C (C7).
- A full G7 has four notes, G-B-D-F. Pianists often leave one out; then it is a short form, not the full chord.
- Ending on the away chord often sounds unfinished in this kind of music; that is a habit of the style, not a rule of feelings.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Harmony and keyboard practice for students, not piano lessons. C, G and F major; root position and short forms of V7.

Case 1: Home and Away

I is built on note 1, V on note 5

THE STORY

A traveling band's songs always leave home and come back. The band's songbook lost its last page. Find the home and away chords to finish it.

LEARN

- The home chord (I) is the triad on the key's first note: C in C major.
- The away chord (V) is the triad on the 5th note: G in C major (C, D, E, F, G).
- In G major: home G, away D. In F major: home F, away C.



1 Home chord or away chord? Circle the answer.

1. G in C major — home / away
2. C in C major — home / away
3. D in G major — home / away
4. G in G major — home / away
5. C in F major — home / away
6. F in F major — home / away

2 Write the notes of each away chord: G (in C major), D (in G major), C (in F major).

1. G = ☐ ☐ ☐
2. D = ☐ ☐ ☐
3. C = ☐ ☐ ☐

Case 1: Home and Away (continued)

3 Choose the best answer.

1. In F major, which chord is the away chord (V)?

   (T) C
   (V) F
   (W) G

CLUE 1

The first letter is the letter of your answer to task 3.

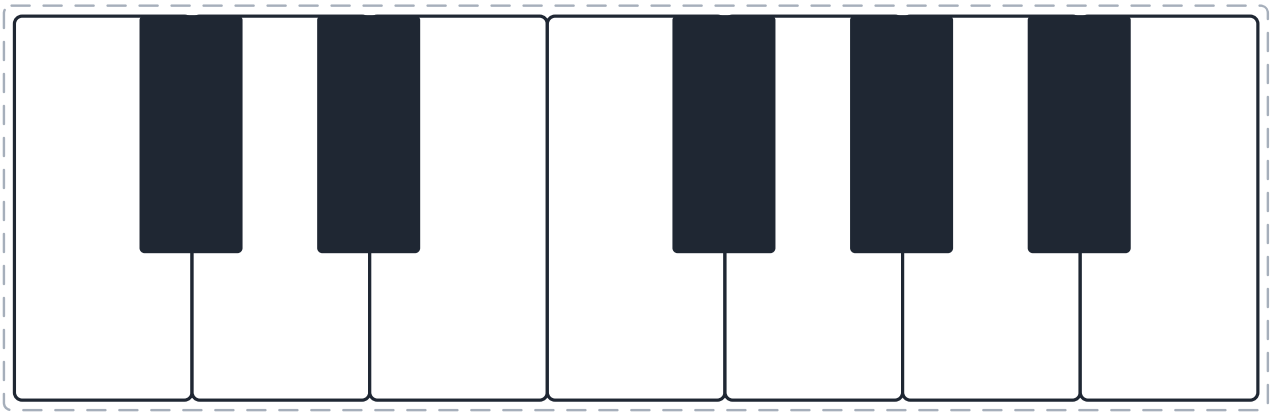
Clue: _____

In the full case file, the clues from every case solve the final question.

Paper keyboard

Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

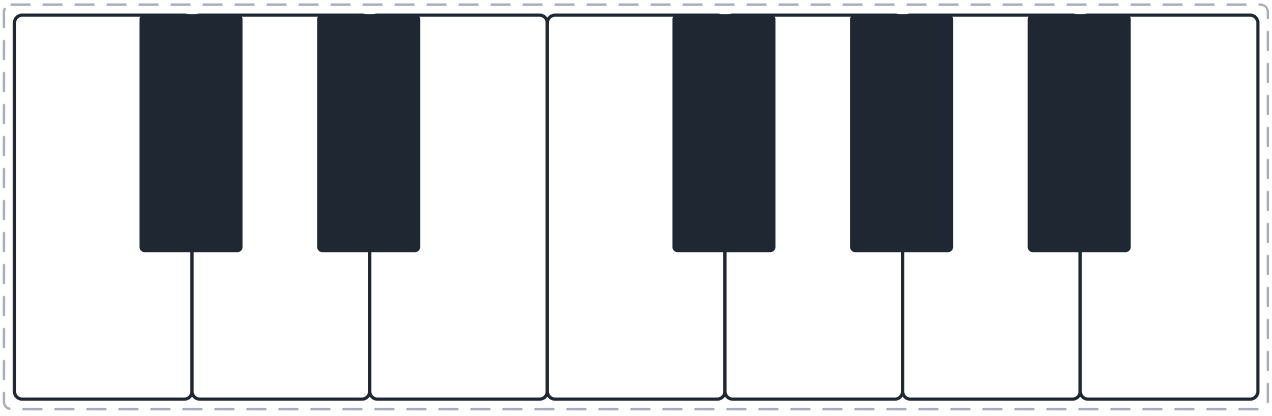
Low



Middle



High



Only Middle C is labeled: finding the other keys is the detective's job. Tape the rows edge to edge (low on the left) to make one long keyboard.

Case 1 answers

Every answer comes with its reason. Read the reasons aloud: they teach.

CASE 1 · HOME AND AWAY

Task 1
PND39-C1-T1

1 G in C major: away · 2 C in C major: home · 3 D in G major: away · 4 G in G major: home · 5 C in F major: away · 6 F in F major: home
C major: home chord C (on note 1), away chord G or G7 (on note 5). G is away. C major: home chord C (on note 1), away chord G or G7 (on note 5). C is home. G major: home chord G (on note 1), away chord D or D7 (on note 5). D is away. G major: home chord G (on note 1), away chord D or D7 (on note 5). G is home. F major: home chord F (on note 1), away chord C or C7 (on note 5). C is away. F major: home chord F (on note 1), away chord C or C7 (on note 5). F is home.

Task 2
PND39-C1-T2

1 G = G, B, D · 2 D = D, F sharp, A · 3 C = C, E, G
G: 3 notes stacked a 3rd apart from G (skip one letter each time): G, B, D. D: 3 notes stacked a 3rd apart from D (skip one letter each time): D, F sharp, A. C: 3 notes stacked a 3rd apart from C (skip one letter each time): C, E, G.

Task 3
PND39-C1-T3

1 T: C
F, G, A, B flat, C: the 5th note is C, so V is C.

Clue 1

T (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Home Chord, Away Chord & First Lead Sheets has four more cases: the seventh, hearing endings, first lead sheets and lead sheets in G and F, with chord cards, a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.