

Example 1

CHORD DEGREE

Key	I	II	III	IV	V(7)	VI	VII
A	A	B	C#	D	E(7)	F#	G#
C	C	D	E	F	G(7)	A	B
D	D	E	F#	G	A(7)	B	C#
E	E	F#	G#	A	B(7)	C#	D#
G	G	A	B	C	D(7)	E	F#

Example 2

Nine Pound Hammer

(each letter is one beat)

G G G G C C C C G G D(7) D(7) G G G G

G = I C = IV D(7) = V

Can be either D or D7

A great version in G is here: <https://youtu.be/uUaeDpkYYWc>

Example 3

You Ain't Going Nowhere

G G Am Am C C G G G G Am Am C C G G

G = I Am = IIm C = IV

A great version in G by the Bryds is here: <https://youtu.be/s2JnDKvuNzw>

Example 4

Salty Dog Blues

G G E7 E7 A7 A7 A7 A7 D7 D7 D7 D7 G G G G

G = I E7 = VI A7 = II D = V

Can be either E or E7, A or A7, D or D7

Flatt and Scruggs play it in G here: https://youtu.be/QW_YGXqQq6c

Example 5

Little Maggie

G G G G F F F F G G D7 D7 G G G G

G = I F = bVII D = V
Can be either D or D7

Doc and Merle Watson play it here: <https://youtu.be/UuM1pePl6II>

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I recommend learning to hear chords in this order:

Most common chords: I IV V

Next most common: bVII II_m VI_m

Next most common: II III_m VI III

To keep them better organized, you might group these like this:

Chords in a major key: I IV V II_m III_m VI_m

Chords outside the major key: II III VI bVII

Remember, V, II, III and VI can be either major or dominant seventh.