


Avoiding Consecutives



The cadences below contain 'consecutive 5ths' and 'consecutive 8ves' (shown with dotted lines), which are BANNED in four part harmony because they don't sound good!

The reason we follow 'rules' when doing cadences (e.g. 'leading note to tonic') is specifically to avoid consecutive 5ths and 8ves; the cadences sound much better. Rearrange the cadences on the staves below to show correct movement of voices.

HOT TIP:  When composing your own harmony examples, the best way to avoid consecutive 5ths and 8ves is to make sure that there is not too much similar motion. As soon as you have two or more parts moving in the same direction, start checking!

Re-write this cadence with no consecutive 5ths or 8ves and correct treatment of the leading note.