

The Period

Three- and Four- Phrase Periods

Three-Phrase Periods

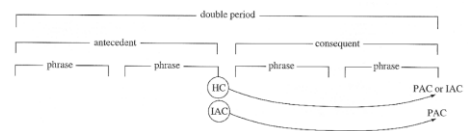
- A period can be made up of more than two phrases, as long as the cadences progress from relatively weak to relatively strong, with the most conclusive cadence coming in the final phrase
- Three-phrase periods often consist of two antecedents and a consequent

Rossini, Overture to the Barber of Seville

- HC – IAC – PAC (a a' b)

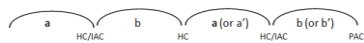
Four-Phrase Periods

- Four-phrase periods are fairly common, with the strongest cadence coming only in the fourth and final phrase
- When a four-phrase period can clearly be organized into pairs of two phrases each, we call it a *double period*

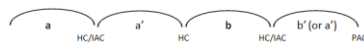


Parallel/Contrasting Double Periods

- In double periods, we compare the first and third phrases
 - If the first and third phrases begin similarly, we call it a *parallel double period*



- If the first and third phrases begin differently, we call it a *contrasting double period*



- HC – HC – HC – PAC (a b a' b')

Phrase Groups

- If a series of phrases seem to belong together but do not form a typical period relationship (that is, if the final cadence is not conclusive), we can refer to these as a *phrase group*
- Phrase groups are more often found in transitional passages that connect other periods together

Repeated Phrases

- Phrases are sometimes repeated nearly identically, with identical cadences—these are not typically regarded as forming a two-phrase period, since the first phrase is not dependent on the second one
- Instead, we call this a *repeated phrase*
- Similarly, a two-phrase period that is repeated does not form a double period

Independent Phrase

- If a single phrase is presented in a way such that it does not connect with other phrases (if it stands alone), we call it an *independent phrase*