



Relative Major & Minor

Two keys that share the same notes

Every major key has a relative minor that uses exactly the same notes. The relative minor starts on the 6th degree of the major scale. This is why Am and C major feel related — they contain the same seven notes.

How to find the relative minor

Count up six notes from the major tonic, or simply go down three semitones (a minor third).

Quick method

C major	go down three semitones	A minor
G major	go down three semitones	E minor
F major	go down three semitones	D minor

Common relative pairs

Major key	Relative minor	Shared notes
C major	A minor	C D E F G A B
G major	E minor	G A B C D E F#
F major	D minor	F G A Bb C D E
D major	B minor	D E F# G A B C#
Bb major	G minor	Bb C D Eb F G A
A major	F# minor	A B C# D E F# G#

Why this matters

Songs often move between a major key and its relative minor without changing key signature. Understanding this relationship helps you recognise when a song is using the “sad” side of the same set of notes.

Relative keys share notes. Parallel keys (C major & C minor) share the same tonic but different notes.