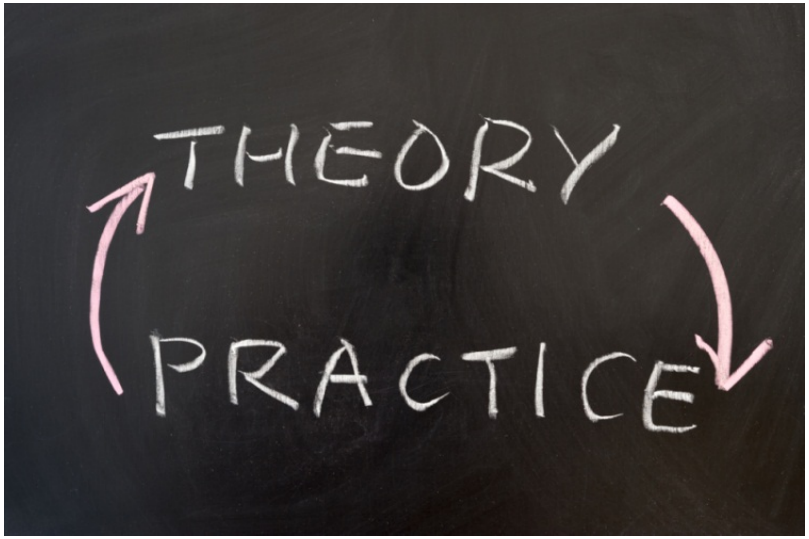


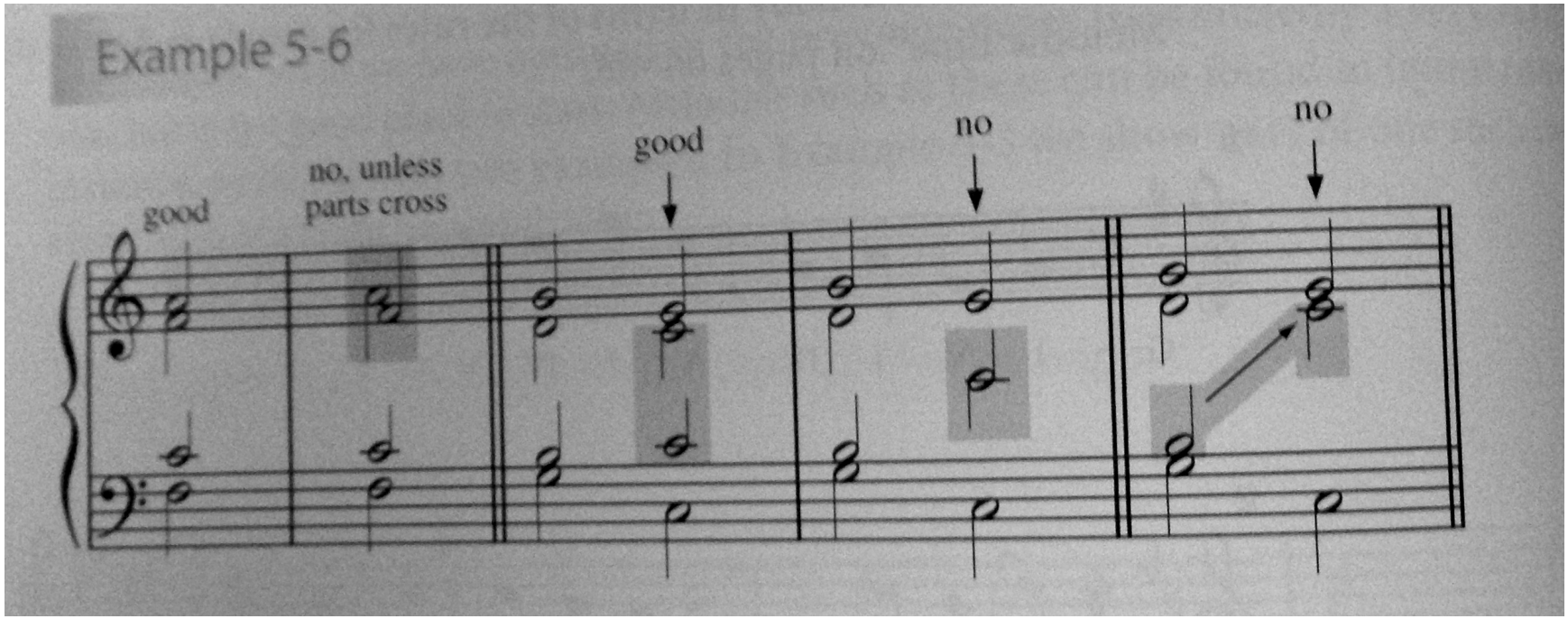
Voice Leading

5 Dec 2016

Notating Chords

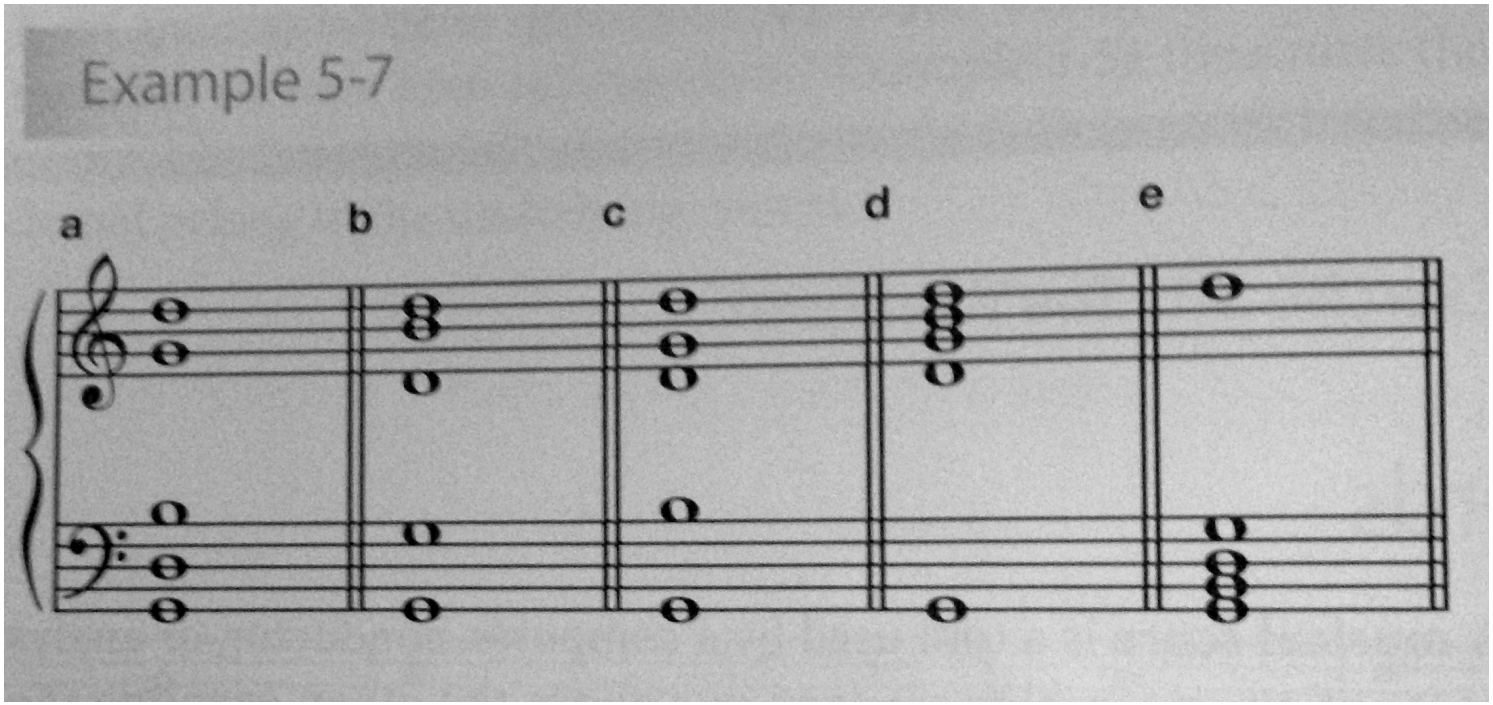
- **Full Score** — all/most parts are notated on their own staff
  - Parts are transposed for non-C instruments (Bb trumpet, Bb clarinet…)
- **Reduced Score** — notated in C (concert pitch) on as few staves as possible
  - Sometimes it only shows the parts playing at any given time
- For SATB part writing, use a grand staff and separate voices by stem direction
- Keep the S above A in treble clef and the T above B in bass clef.
- Each chord should have each voice represented.

SATB scoring



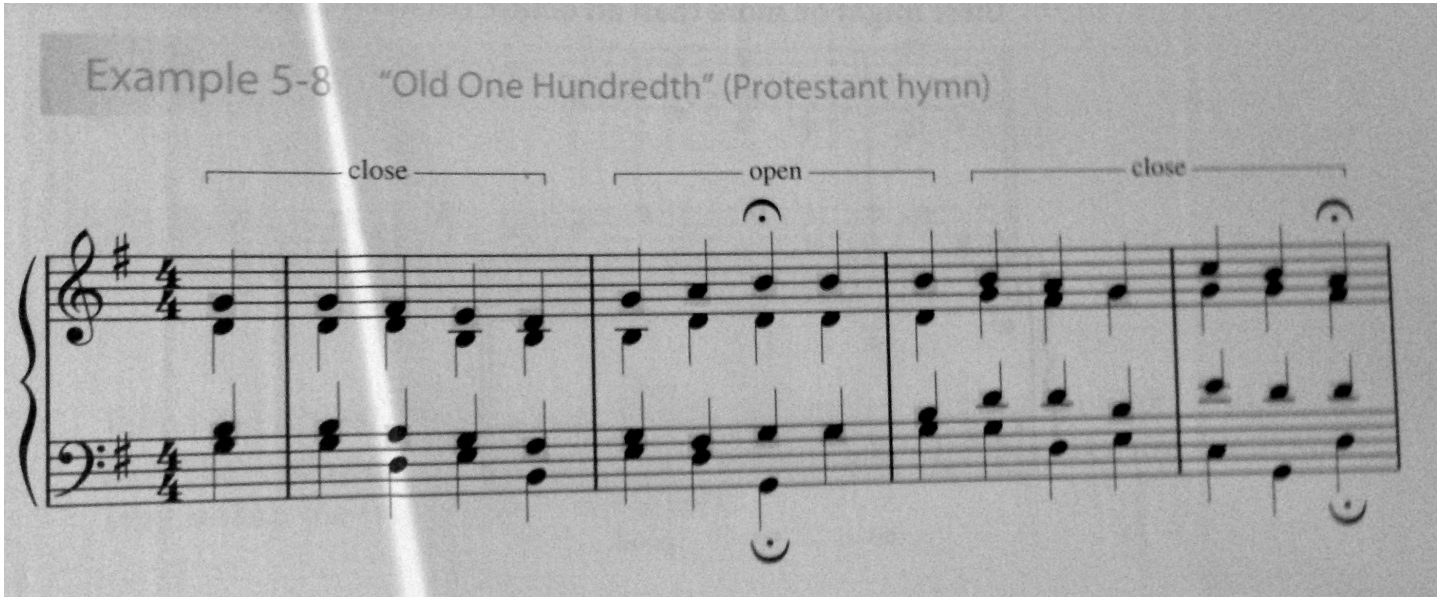
Voicing

- How chord tones are distributed between voices
- Spacing changes the way we hear sonorities (chords)



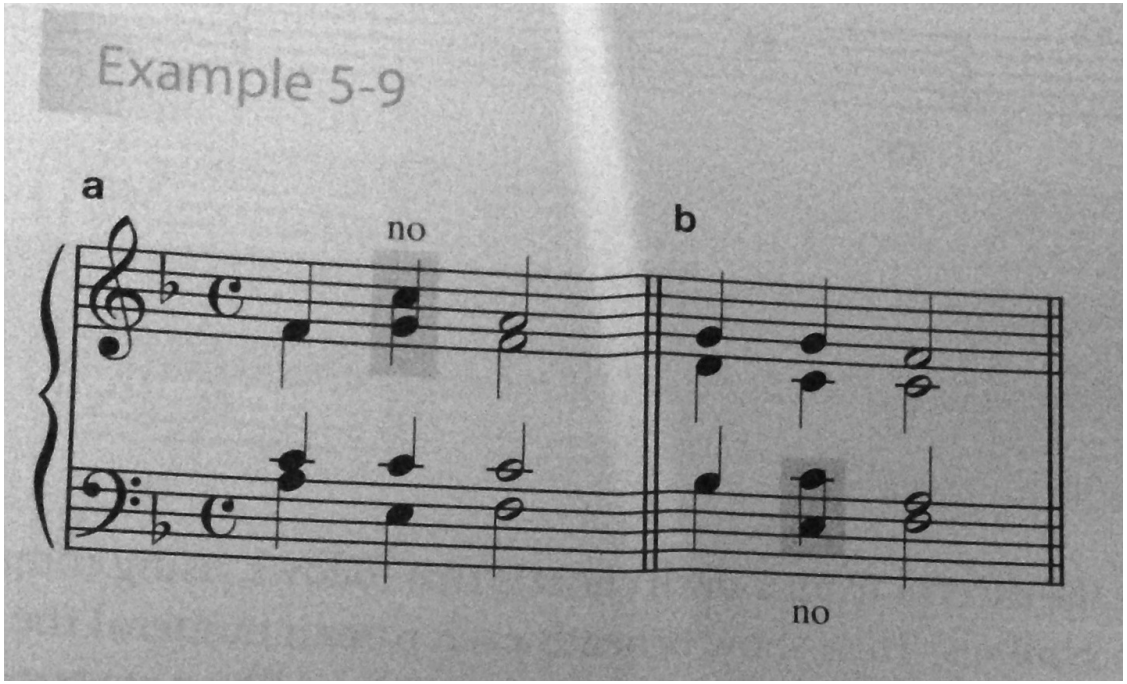
Open and Close Structures

- **Close structure:** less than an octave between soprano and tenor
- **Open structure:** an octave or more between soprano and tenor (May be helpful to think about whether you could reach the top three notes on the piano at once)



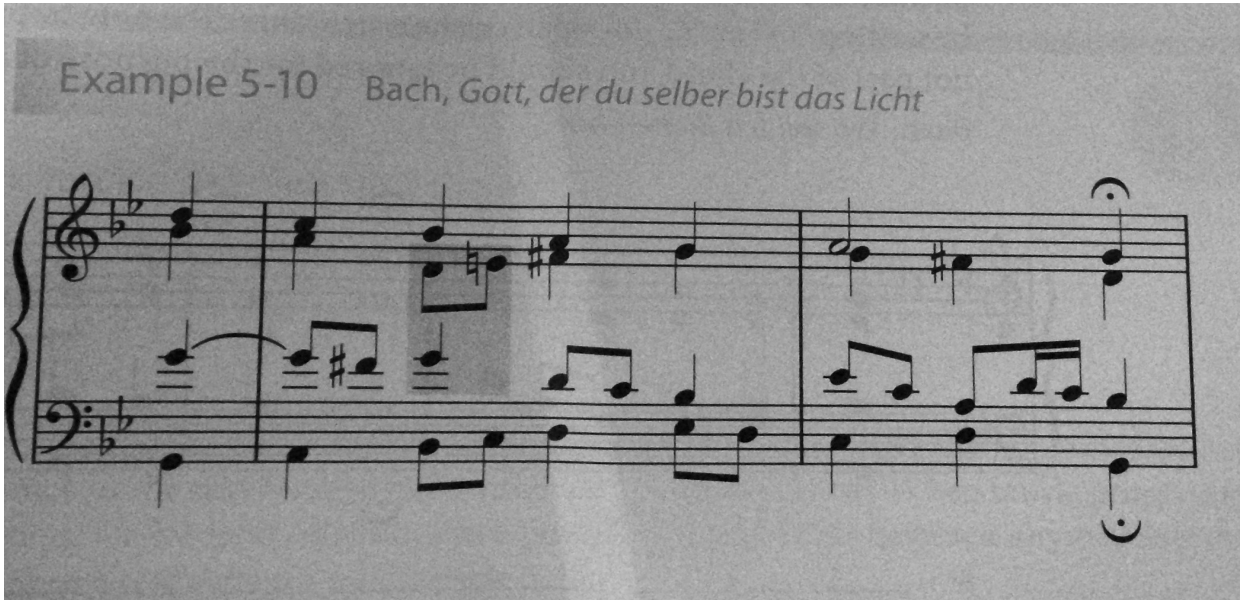
Voice Crossing

- Soprano and Bass are most important, so never cross them (S always highest, B always lowest)



Voice Crossing

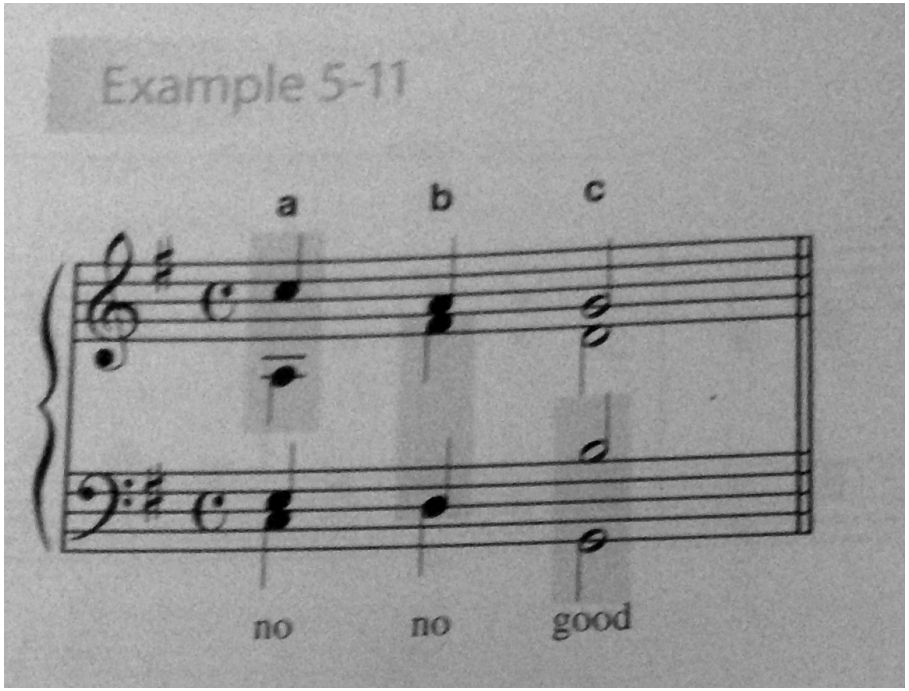
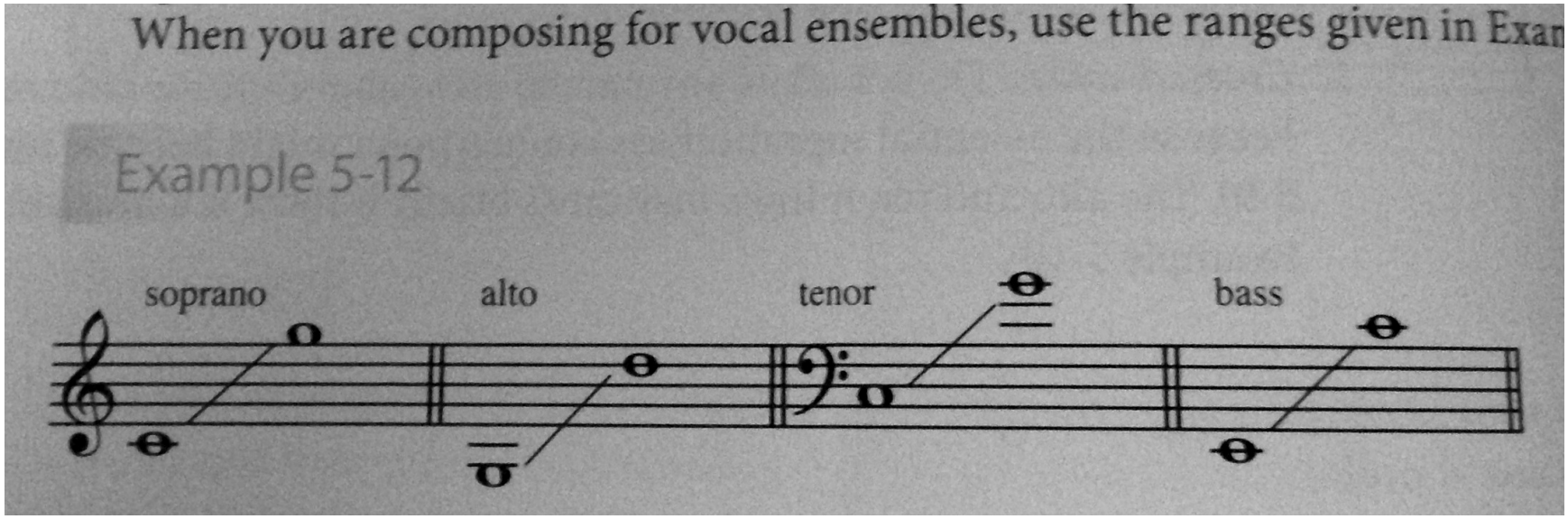
- Alto and Tenor can cross sometimes for musical reasons



LT must resolve up by step!

Spacing

- Keep S, A, T within an octave of one another
  - Only T and B may have more than an octave between them



Vocal Ranges