

Here is a fool proof way to identify the sharp keys.

Use the cycle of fifths to identify the sharp keys.

The key of C Major and A Minor have no sharps or flats.
The relative minor key of A Minor starts on the 6th of C Major,
on the "A" note.

Move up a fifth to "G".



The key of G Major and E Minor have one sharp. F#.
The relative minor key of E Minor starts on the 6th of G Major,
on the "E" note.

Move up a fifth to "D".



The key of D Major and B Minor have two sharps. F# C#.
The relative minor key of B Minor starts on the 6th of D Major,
on the "B" note.

Move up a fifth to "A".



The key of A Major and F# Minor have three sharps. F# C# G#.
The relative minor key of F# Minor starts on the 6th of A Major,
on the "F#" note.

Move up a fifth to "E".



The key of E Major and C# Minor have four sharps. F# C# G# D#.
The relative minor key of C# Minor starts on the 6th of E Major,
on the "C#" note.

Move up a fifth to "B".



The key of B Major and G# Minor have five sharps. F# C# G# D# A#.
The relative minor key of G# Minor starts on the 6th of B Major,
on the "G#" note.

Move up a fifth to "F#".



The key of F# Major and D# Minor have six sharps. F# C# G# D# A# E#.
The relative minor key of D# Minor starts on the 6th of F# Major,
on the "D#" note.



Notice that the sharps accumulate in fifths just as the keys move up in fifths.
Also notice that the newest sharp is the seventh note in the next major key.

Take some time to insure you understand how to identify all twelve keys and their relative minor keys. Once you are comfortable with this, you will be equipped to move on to the next page where you will learn more about how to determine which mode to use when.