3.3 Types of Key Relationships

The following five types of key relationships are in order from closest relation to weakest relation.

1. **Enharmonic Keys**
   Enharmonic keys are *spelled differently* but *sound the same*, just like enharmonic notes.

   ![Enharmonic Keys Example](C# major = Db major)

2. **Parallel Keys**
   Parallel keys share a *tonic*, but have *different key signatures*. One will be minor and one major.

   ![Parallel Keys Example](D major, D minor)
   D minor is the *parallel minor* of D major.

3. **Relative Keys**
   Relative keys share a *key signature*, but have different tonics. One will be minor and one major.
   Remember: Relatives "look alike" at a family reunion, and relative keys "look alike" in their signatures!

   ![Relative Keys Example](G major, E minor)
   E minor is the *relative minor* of G major.

4. **Closely-related Keys**
   Any key will have 5 closely-related keys. A closely-related key is a key that *differs from a given key by at most one sharp or flat*. There are two easy ways to find closely related keys, as shown below.

   **METHOD 1:**
   Add and subtract one sharp/flat, and take the relative keys (minor/major)

   **OR**
   **METHOD 2:**
   Take all the *major* and *minor* triads in the given key (only) as tonic chords for other keys.

   ![Closely-related Keys Example](Given key: D major, 2 #s)

5. **Foreign Keys (or Distantly-related Keys)**
   A foreign key is any key that is *not* enharmonic, parallel, relative, or closely-related.
   Below is one of many possible examples.

   ![Foreign Keys Example](Bb major, E minor)
   E minor is the *foreign* to Bb major.

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