

SONATA FORM: FIRST MOVEMENT¹

SECTION	KEY	CHARACTERISTICS
EXPOSITION First theme Bridge Second theme Coda (Generally repeated)	Home key Contrasting key Same key as the second theme	Introduces the first two themes in their respective keys Sets up and modulates for arrival of the second theme (or theme group) Often different in rhythm and mood from first theme Ends in a perfect cadence
DEVELOPMENT	Same key as the second theme of the exposition Contrasting or foreign keys Ends in home key	Themes repeated and may contain new material Varies in length Generally ends with a greater degree of tonal, harmonic and rhythmic instability
RECAPITULATION First theme Bridge Second theme Coda	Home key Usually home key Home key or transposition to home key Home key	Altered repeat of the exposition Varies in length; Final cadence in tonic

¹ Sonata-Allegro form is not just limited to the first movement. This form can also occur in other movements within the work.