In different time periods, composers have favored certain root progressions more than others. A man named Allen McHose has done research on the tendencies of the 18th century along these lines and has come up with the following information:

1) Tonic chords are most often preceded by V (or vïi°); in minor – V, (vïi°). These chords that precede the tonic are all given the label **Dominant Function** or **1st Classification**.

2) 1st Classification chords are most often preceded by ii or IV (ii, ii° (ïI), iv and IV in minor). These chords are labeled **Subdominants** or **2nd Classification**.

3) 2nd Classification chords are most often preceded by vi or I (ïVI, i in minor). These chords are labeled **3rd Classification**.

4) 3rd Classification chords are most often preceded by iii (ïIII in minor). These chords are called **4th Classification**.

Summing up these observations of McHose the following would be typical root movements (given in major keys):

1) V  I  5) vi  IV  V  I  
2) ii  V  I  6) I  IV  V  I  
3) IV  V  I  7) iii  vi  ii  V  I  
4) vi  ii  V  I

Any progressions such as the above, McHose calls Normal Progressions, and justly so since he found them used so frequently.

Also important:

**Tonic Chord Movements:**

1) The tonic chord may progress to any chord in its key and
2) the tonic chord may be used between two chords which form a normal progression without disturbing their classification.

**The Circle of 4ths:**

An often used long progression is I - IV - vii° - iii - vi - ii - V - I etc. It may start on other degrees than I. Example: IV - vii° - iii - vi - ii - V - I.

Some other types of chord progressions:

1) **Elision** – the skipping of a classification. Some of the more common ones are: iii - IV, IV - I, ii - I, and vi - V.

2) **Retrogression** – movement in reverse of the normal progressions, such as from a 1st classification chord to a 2nd classification chord. Some common examples: vi - iii, V - IV, ii - vi.

3) **Repetition** – the chords which are most commonly repeated (almost always with a change of position at least, if not change of inversion) are the I, V, IV, and ii.

Some startling specific facts relating to the above: after analyzing thousands of chord progressions of Bach and Handel, the two most highly respected masters of the early 18th century, it was found that they used approximately 80% normal progressions, and approximately 90 to 95% tonic, 1st classification, and 2nd classification chords!
Theory of Chord Progression

In different time periods, composers have favored certain root progressions more than others; a man named Allen H. Hoce has done research on the tendencies of the 18th century along these lines and has come up with the following information:

1. **Tonic chords are most often preceded by IV (ii, vi, vii) in minor - V (vii)**. These chords are all given the label DOMINANT FUNCTION or 1ST CLASSIFICATION.

2. **1st classification chords are most often preceded by I or IV (ii, vi, vii)**. These chords are labeled SUBDOMINANTS or 2nd CLASSIFICATION.

3. **2nd classification chords are most often preceded by vi or I (iv, i in minor)**. These chords are labeled 3rd CLASSIFICATION.

4. **3rd classification chords are most often preceded by III (iii in minor)**. These chords are called 4TH CLASSIFICATION.

Summing up these observations of Hoce, the following would be typical root movements (given in major keys): I → II → IV → V → VI → VII → I

Any progressions such as the above, Hoce calls NORMAL PROGRESSIONS, and partly so since he found them used so frequently. Also important to TONIC CHORD MOVEMENTS: 1. The tonic chord may progress to any chord in its key and 2. The tonic chord may be used between two chords which form a normal progression without disturbing their classification.

THE CIRCLE OF FIFTHS: An often used long progression is I → IV → VI → III → VI → I etc. It must start on other degrees than I. Example: IV → VI → II → V → I.

Some other types of chord progressions: 1. Elision - the skipping of a classification - some of the more common ones are II → IV, I → III, and VI → I. 2. Retrogression - movement in reverse of the normal progressions, such as from a 1st class chord to a 2nd class chord. Some common examples: vi → III, IV → II, vi. 3. Repetition - the chords which are most commonly repeated (almost always with a change of position, at least if not change of inversion) are the I, IV, V, and ii.

Some startling specific facts relating to the above: After analyzing thousands of chord progressions of Bach & Handel, the two most highly respected masters of the early 18th century, it was found that they used approximately 80% normal progressions, and approximately 90 to 95% tonic, 1st classification and 2nd classification chords!