Because much music evolved from people’s voices (i.e., singing), the separate harmony parts in chords were and are still often referred to as “voices” even when played instead of sung. Some of us also call them “lines.”

A line may move down:  
A line may move up:  
A line may do both at the same time:  
I call this a “Splitting Voice” because the line or voice splits into two lines now.

It’s as if there were two people playing or singing the same note already:

and then they moved from this singing in unison to:

Two notes may move to two others, thereby creating two lines:

Sounds like A7 to D, right?

Two voices may become 3 (or even more) if one splits:

Two voices may become 4 (or more) if both split:

The two voices could have split into a different sound if the lower one only had done the split:

Study the following:
The "Oblique Split" occurs when a voice stays put (sustains) and moves somewhere else too:

One voice may split into three:

All of this type of stuff may happen in the top end of larger chords:

Notice this just disappears in...and reappears here.

Some would say that there are voice splits in the low-end here. I find it easier in such cases to go with what I seem to hear, namely just a varying of the number of voices in the bottom, not so much that they are splitting.

Absorb and be able to play all of the above. A page of exercises will follow...when you are ready.
Understanding Voice Leading and Voice Splitting

Because much music evolved from people's voices (i.e., singing), the separate harmony parts in chords were originally referred to as "voices" even when played instead of sung. Some of us also call them lines.

A line may move... down.

A line may move up.

A line may move... both at the same time.

I call this a Splitting Voice, because the line or voice splits into 2 lines.

As if there were 2 people playing 2 different parts in the same chord already.

And then they moved from this 7, bringing in a new note, may become to two others, thereby creating 2 lines.

2 voices became 5 voices.

2 voices became 4 voices.

or even more.

Sounds like AT-TO-D, right?

Study the following.

The notes may split into 3.

One note may split into 3.

(Since?)

They disappear and reappear.

This note just disappears and reappears.

Some would say that the voice splits in the low-end here. If this were to happen in such cases, to go with what it seems to have been, namely just a moving of the member of voice in the bottom, notes may not go much that they are splitting.

Try to be able to play all of the above. A page or exercises will follow... when you are ready.