

Episode I: 1-63	Dionysus, in the person of the Stranger, introduces himself and describes his program.
Parodos: Chorus I: 64-169	The chorus of Bacchants sing about the origins of the new god and his progress through Asia, winding up at Thebes.
Episode II: 170-369	Teiresias and Cadmus appear, garbed for Bacchic celebration, and plan their participation. Pentheus discovers them (215) and rebukes them. Teiresias offers a long defense of the rites and of playing along (266). The three argue.
Stasimon: Chorus II: 370-433	Choral song in praise of the Bacchic rites.
Episode III: 434-518	A guard reports to Pentheus the flight of the prisoner. Dionysus and Pentheus engage in verbal sparring.
Stasimon: Chorus III: 519-603	Ecstatic song between the Chorus and Dionysus.
Episode IV: 604-861	Dionysus explains his plan to the chorus. Pentheus enters and reports his strange experiences (642); a messenger (660) comes to explain what he has seen among the Bacchants. His lengthy favorable report runs on to line 774. Pentheus and Dionysus re-engage (775), and at 810, Dionysus appears to have made up his mind to destroy Pentheus. He plans the visit to spy on the Bacchants and convinces a now-deluded Pentheus to play along.
Stasimon: Chorus IV: 862-911	Choral reflections on the folly of defying the gods.
Episode V: 912-976	Pentheus emerges from his house, garbed as a woman, and prepares to set off to spy on the Bacchae. They depart.
Stasimon: Chorus V: 977-1023	The Bacchae sing a sort of hunting song.
Episode VI: 1024-1152	The second messenger enters and brings a lengthy and graphic description of the fall of Pentheus.
Stasimon: Chorus VI: 1153-1199	The chorus exults along with a deluded Agave.
Episode VII: 1200-1367	The confrontation of Cadmus and Agave, who comes out of her trance to realize whose head she is carrying. Passage is corrupt, but about 1330, Dionysus enters and advises Cadmus about his future.
Exodos: Chorus VII: 1368-1392	Closing reflections on fate and the gods