

Tempo Marks

TEMPO is an Italian word meaning "rate of speed." Tempo marks tell how *fast* or *slow* the music should be played. Tempo marks are also written in Italian.

ITALIAN	ENGLISH
<u>Largo</u>	Very slow
<u>Adagio</u>	Slow
<u>Andante</u>	Moving along (walking speed)
<u>Moderato</u>	Moderately
<u>Allegro</u>	Quickly, cheerfully
<u>Vivace</u>	Lively and fast

Moderato may be combined with other words:

Allegro moderato = slightly slower than *Allegro* but quicker than *Moderato*

A Gradual Change of Tempo

Terms used to indicate a gradual change in tempo are:

ITALIAN	TERM	ENGLISH
<u>ritardando</u>	<i>ritard.</i> or <i>rit.</i>	gradually slower
<u>accelerando</u>	<i>accel.</i>	gradually faster

Exercises

- In writing music, tempo marks tell the _____.
- A very slow tempo marking is _____.
- A lively and fast tempo marking is _____.
- Match the Italian term to its English meaning by writing the correct letter in each blank.

_____ Quickly, cheerfully	a. <i>Moderato</i>
_____ Gradually slower	b. <i>Vivace</i>
_____ Lively and fast	c. <i>Adagio</i>
_____ Moderately	d. <i>Ritardando</i>
_____ Moving along (walking speed)	e. <i>Accelerando</i>
_____ Very slow	f. <i>Largo</i>
_____ Gradually faster	g. <i>Andante</i>
_____ Slow	h. <i>Allegro</i>