

Tempo Terminology - Basic Directives

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<u>M.M.</u>	Italian	English	French	German
40 	Larghissimo	Extremely slow	Très lent	Sehr langsam
	Adagissimo			Ganz langsam
	Lentissimo			
56 	Largo 40-60	Very Slow	Lent ; Large	Langsam ; Breit
	Adagio 66 - 76			
	Lento			
66 	Larghetto 60-66	Rather slow	Un peu lent	Etwas langsam
	Adagietto			
88 	Andante 76 - 108	Moderately slow	Allant ; Très Modéré	Mässig langsam ; Gehend
	Andantino			
 	Moderato	Moderately	Modéré	Mässig ; Mässig bewegt
	Allegretto	Rather fast	Un peu animé	Etwas bewegt
120	Allegro 120- 168	Fast; quick	Animé	Bewegt ; Schnell
168 	Vivace	Quite fast	Vif ; Vite	Lebhaft ; Eilig
	Vivo			
	Presto			
208 	Allegrissimo	Very fast	Très vif	Ganz schnell ; Ganz lebhaft
	Vivacissimo			
	Prestissimo			

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Expression		English	Example	End Result
It.	A poco a poco	little by little	accelerando poco a poco	becoming faster little by little
Fr.	Peu à peu		accélérez peu à peu	
Ger.	allmählich		allmählich schneller werden	
It.	Assai, molto	very, much, quite	Presto assai or molto presto	very fast
Fr.	très		Très vif	
Ger.	Sehr, ganz		Sehr schnell or ganz lebhaft	
It.	con	with	Con brio	With spirit
Fr.	avec		Avec verve	
Ger.	mit		Mit schwungvoll	
It.	Meno	Less	Meno vivace	Not so fast
Fr.	Moins		Moins vif	
Ger.	weniger		Weniger schnell	
It.	Non troppo	Not too much	Largo non troppo	Slow, but not too much
Fr.	Pas trop		Pas trop lent	
Ger.	Nicht zu		Nicht zu langsam	
It.	Più	more	Più vivace	faster
Fr.	Plus		Plus vite	
Ger.	(suffix) er		Eileger or lebhafter	
It.	Pochissimo	A very little	Pochissimo ritard	A slight ritard
Fr.	Un peu		Cédez un peu	
Ger.	etwas		Etwas zuruckhalten	
It.	Poco, un poco	A little, somewhat	Poco adagio	Somewhat slow
Fr.	Un peu		Un peu lent	
Ger.	Ein wenig		Ein wenig langsam	
It.	quasi	Like, almost	Moderato quasi andante	Moderately like an andante

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A piacere	Tempo is at the pleasure or discretion of the performer . The same as ad libitum . Similar to rubato except rubato is the discretion of the conductor .
Accelerando (accel.)	Quickening; a gradual speeding up of the tempo
Ad libitum	Tempo is at the discretion of the performer . The same as a piacere . Similar to rubato except rubato is the discretion of the conductor .
Alla Breve	Duple time with a half note as the unit; same as Cut time
Allargando (allarg.)	Broadening; sometimes interpreted as a combination of ritardando and crescendo
ancora	Still more; used generally with tempo indications, as ancora meno mosso (still more slowly)
A tempo	In tempo ; reestablishes original speed after accelerando or ritardando
cédez	French for poco ritardando ; a slight holding back
Come prima	As at first
Come sopra	As above; much the same as come prima
Doppio movimento	Twice as fast; usually used in conjunction with Common time changing to Cut time
L'istesso tempo lo stesso tempo	The same tempo , indicating that the beat remains constant when the meter changes as 2/4 to 6/8
Meno mosso Più lento	Less motion; slower. May be qualified by poco (a little less)
Più allegro Più animato Più mosso	faster
pressez	French term for "quicken"; same meaning as accelerando
Rallentando (rall.)	Same as ritardando ; a gradual slowing-down of the tempo
Ritardando (rit.)	Slowing down; a gradual holding-back of the tempo
Ritenuto (riten.)	Frequently confused with ritardando ; means a sudden slowing-down, in contrast to the gradual holding-back of rallentando
rubato	Litterally, to "rob" or steal the time values by holding-back or speeding up at will to color a phrase
Stringendo (string.)	Pressing forward; sometimes erroneously interpreted as a combination of accelerando and crescendo
Tempo giusto	In strict tempo (non- rubato)
Tempo primo (Tempo I°)	Original tempo