

Basic Tempo Markings

From slowest to fastest:

• <i>Larghissimo</i>	– very, very slow	(24 bpm and under)
• <i>Grave</i>	– very slow	(25–45 bpm)
• <i>Largo</i>	– broadly	(40–60 bpm)
• <i>Lento</i>	– slowly	(45–60 bpm)
• <i>Larghetto</i>	– rather broadly	(60–66 bpm)
• <i>Adagio</i>	– slow and stately (literally, "at ease")	(66–76 bpm)
• <i>Adagietto</i>	– slower than andante	(72–76 bpm)
• <i>Andante</i>	– at a walking pace	(76–108 bpm)
• <i>Andantino</i>	– slightly faster than Andante	(80–108 bpm)
• <i>Marcia moderato</i>	– moderately, in the manner of a march	(83–85 bpm)
• <i>Andante moderato</i>	– between andante and moderato	(92–112 bpm)
• <i>Moderato</i>	– moderately	(108–120 bpm)
• <i>Allegretto</i>	– moderately fast	(112–120 bpm)
• <i>Allegro moderato</i>	– close to but not quite allegro	(116–120 bpm)
• <i>Allegro</i>	– fast, quickly, and bright	(120–168 bpm)
• <i>Vivace</i>	– lively and fast	(168–176 bpm)
• <i>Vivacissimo</i>	– very fast and lively	(172–176 bpm)
• <i>Allegro vivace</i>	– very fast	(172–176 bpm)
• <i>Presto</i>	– very, very fast	(168–200 bpm)
• <i>Prestissimo</i>	– even faster than Presto	(200 bpm and over)

Terms for tempo change:

• <i>Rallentando</i>	– gradually slowing down
• <i>Ritardando</i>	– gradually slowing down (but not as much as <i>rallentando</i>)
• <i>Ritenuto</i>	– immediately slowing down
• <i>Stringendo</i>	– gradually speeding up (slowly)
• <i>Accelerando</i>	– gradually speeding up (quickly)

By adding an *-issimo* ending, the word is amplified. By adding an *-ino* or *-etto* ending, the word is diminished.