

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
<i>Largo</i>	Very slow
<i>Adagio</i>	Slow
<i>Andante</i>	Moving along (walking speed)
<i>Moderato</i>	Moderately
<i>Allegro</i>	Quickly, cheerfully
<i>Vivace</i>	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
<i>ritardando</i>	<i>ritard. or rit.</i>	gradually slower
<i>accelerando</i>	<i>accel.</i>	gradually faster

Exercises

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

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

Articulation

Pages 28 and 29 introduced the words and signs that indicate what speed (slow to fast) and volume (soft to loud) a musical selection is to be played. In addition, notes may be performed in different ways. The manner in which a note is performed is called ARTICULATION. Legato (see page 19) is one form of articulation.

ITALIAN	SYMBOL	ENGLISH
<i>staccato</i>		Play the note short and detached. The Italian word means "detached."
<i>accent</i> (English)		Play the note louder, with a special emphasis.
<i>sforzando</i>	<i>sf</i> or <i>sfz</i>	A sudden, strong accent. The Italian word means "forcing."
<i>tenuto</i>	 (or <i>ten.</i>)	Hold the note for its full value. The Italian word means "held."
<i>fermata</i>		Hold the note longer than its normal value (approximately twice the normal duration).

Exercises

1

Name the articulation symbols below:

_____ *staccato* _____

_____ or *ten.* _____ *tenuto* _____

_____ *accent* _____

_____ *sf* or *sfz* _____ *sforzando* _____

_____ *fermata* _____

2

Say the following examples using the syllables "ti" for 8th notes, "ta" for quarter notes, "ta-ah" for half notes, "ta-ah-ah" for dotted half notes and "ta-ah-ah-ah" for whole notes. Observe all tempo markings, dynamics and other musical symbols.

Allegro

Largo

Moderato

D.C., D.S., Coda and Fine

To reduce the amount of music needed to notate a piece, several additional Italian words and symbols are used by composers to indicate repeats.

ITALIAN	SIGN	ENGLISH
<i>Da Capo</i>	<i>D.C.</i>	Repeat from the beginning
<i>Dal Segno</i>	<i>D.S.</i>	Repeat from the sign $\%$
<i>Fine</i>	<i>Fine</i>	The end
<i>Coda*</i>	\oplus	An added ending

*When the Coda sign appears in the music, it means to skip directly to the Coda, which is an added ending usually marked with the same sign.

The Italian words and symbols for repeating are frequently combined.

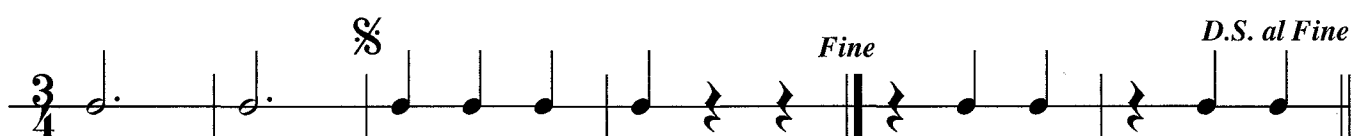
SIGN **ENGLISH**
D.C. al Fine Repeat from the beginning and play to the end (Fine).

1. Play through to the end 2. Return to the beginning 3. Play to Fine



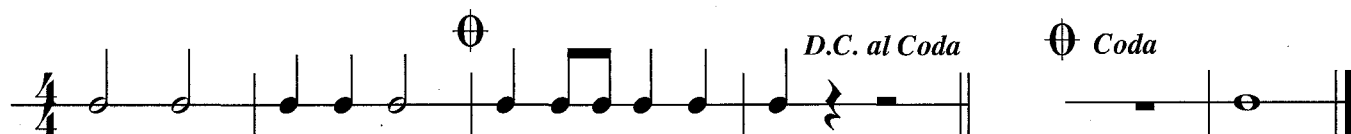
D.S. al Fine Repeat from the sign $\%$ and play to the end (Fine).

1. Play through to the end 2. Return to $\%$ 3. Play to Fine



D.C. al Coda Repeat from the beginning and play to \oplus , then skip to the \oplus Coda.

1. Play to *D.C. al Coda* 2. Return to the beginning 3. Play to \oplus 4. Skip to \oplus Coda and play to the end.



D.S. al Coda Repeat from $\%$ and play to \oplus , then skip to the \oplus Coda

1. Play to *D.S. al Coda* 2. Return to $\%$ 3. Play to \oplus 4. Skip to \oplus Coda and play to the end.



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Track 24

- 1 Listen to the example and place the following dynamic markings where applicable: *f*, *mf*, *ff*

Symphony No. 9 ("From the New World"), Op. 95

Antonin Dvořák (1841–1904)



- 2 In the example above, circle the appropriate tempo marking: Largo **Allegro** Andante

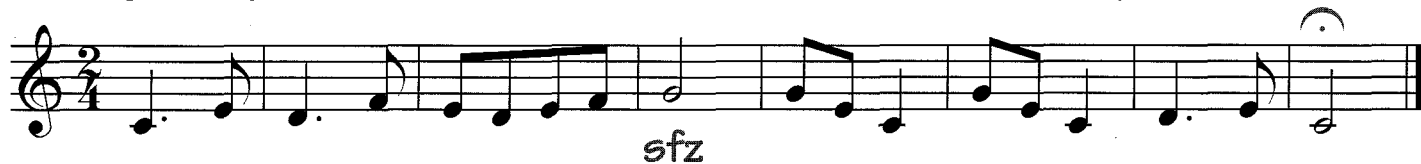
Track 25

- 3 Listen to the example and notate where the *ritardando* (*rit.*) and *accelerando* (*accel.*) occur.



Track 26

- 4 Listen to the example and place the following markings in the appropriate places: Fermata (◡) Sforzando (*sfz*)



Track 27

- 5 Listen to the example and mark accents (>) under the notes that are played accented.

Rondo Alla Turca (from "Sonata in A Major, K. 331")

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)



- 6 In the example above, circle the appropriate tempo marking: Vivace Adagio **Moderato**

Track 28

- 7 Listen to the example and write staccato (·) marks under the appropriate quarter notes.

Shepherd's Hey

English Folk Song



Track 29

- 8 Listen to the example and place the following two markings in the appropriate places: *sfz*

