

# Basic Tempo Markings

From slowest to fastest:

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

Terms for tempo change:

- *Rallentando* – gradually slowing down
- *Ritardando* – gradually slowing down (but not as much as *rallentando*)
- *Ritenuto* – immediately slowing down
- *Stringendo* – gradually speeding up (slowly)
- *Accelerando* – gradually speeding up (quickly)

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