

## Glossary of Tempo Markings used in Classical Music

In classical music, the most common tempo markings are in Italian, though sometimes French or German are also used

<b>Tempo Markings - Italian</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Beats per minute (bpm)</b>
<b>grave</b>	very slow and solemn	40 bpm or slower (a 1950 metronome suggests 44 bpm)
<b>larghissimo</b>	extremely slow	40 bpm or slower (some sources suggest 20bpm or slower)
<b>lentissimo</b>	extremely slow, but not as slow as larghissimo	
<b>adagissimo</b>	extremely slow, but slower than largo	
<b>largo</b>	broad, very slow and dignified	42-66 bpm (some sources suggest 40-60bpm) (a nineteenth-century Maelzel metronome suggests 40 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 46 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 50 bpm)
<b>larghetto</b>	less slow than largo	60-66 bpm (a 1950 metronome suggests 50 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 60 bpm)
<b>largamente</b>	broadly	some sources suggest 10bpm
<b>adagio</b>	slow, but not as slow as largo	58-97 bpm (some sources suggest 66-76 bpm while others suggest 48-66 bpm) (a nineteenth-century Maelzel metronome suggests 60 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 54 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 70 bpm)
<b>adagietto</b>	slow, but less slow than adagio	70-80 bpm

<b>lento</b>	slow	52-108 bpm (some sources suggest 40-60) (a nineteenth-century Maetzl metronome suggests 52 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 52 bpm)
<b>lentamente</b>	slowly	
<b>andantino</b>	a little slower than andante but sometimes a little faster than adagio	(a 1950 metronome suggests 66 bpm)
<b>andante</b>	moving along - walking pace	56-88 bpm (some sources suggest 76-108 bpm) (a nineteenth-century Maetzl metronome suggests 69 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 80-100 bpm)
<b>con moto</b>	with movement, or a certain quickness	
<b>moderato</b>	moderate speed	66-126 bpm (some sources suggest 108-120 or some 120-168 bpm) (a nineteenth-century Maetzl metronome suggests 84 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 80 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 110 bpm)
<b>allegretto</b>	pretty lively	(a nineteenth-century Maetzl metronome suggests 100 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 100 bpm)
<b>vivace</b>	quick and lively	~140 bpm (a nineteenth-century Maetzl metronome suggests 144 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 126 bpm)
<b>allegro</b>	quick, lively and bright	84-144 bpm (some sources suggest 120-168bpm) (a nineteenth-century Maetzl metronome suggests 120 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 116 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 120-160 bpm)
<b>allegramente</b>	quicker	

<b>presto</b>	very quick	100-152 bpm (some sources suggest 168-208 bpm) (a nineteenth-century Maazel metronome suggests 160 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 144 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 180 bpm)
<b>allegro</b>	very quick, between presto and vivacissimo	
<b>vivacissimo</b>	very quick, faster than vivace	
<b>prestissimo</b>	very quick - as quickly as possible	more than 200bpm (a nineteenth-century Maazel metronome suggests 184-240 bpm) (a 1950 metronome suggests 184 bpm) (a modern electronic metronome suggests 200 bpm)
<b>rapido</b>	rapidly	
<b>veloce</b>	with velocity, speedily	