

TABLE of BASIC TEMPO MARKINGS

Italian Term	Rough Meaning
<i>largo</i> <i>adagio</i> <i>lento</i>	Very slow
<i>andante</i> <i>andantino</i>	Moderately slow
<i>moderato</i>	Moderately
<i>allegretto</i>	Fairly fast
<i>allegro</i> <i>vivace</i> <i>vivo</i>	Fast, quick
<i>presto</i> <i>prestissimo</i>	Quite fast

TABLE OF TEMPO QUALIFICATIONS

Italian French German	English Definition
<i>a poco a poco</i> <i>pue a pue</i> <i>allmahlich</i>	Little by little
<i>assai, molto</i> <i>tres</i> <i>sehr, ganz</i>	Very, much, quite
<i>con</i> <i>avec</i>	With
<i>meno</i> <i>moins</i> <i>weniger</i>	Less
<i>non troppo</i> <i>pas trop</i> <i>nicht zu</i>	Not too much
<i>piu</i> <i>plus</i> <i>mehr</i>	More
<i>pochissimo</i> <i>un peu</i> <i>etwas</i>	A very little
<i>poco, un poco</i> <i>un peu</i>	A little, somewhat
<i>quasi</i>	Like, almost

TABLE OF SPECIFIC TEMPO-RELATED MARKINGS

Italian or French Term	English Definition
<i>accelerando</i>	Quickening gradually
<i>alla breve</i>	Duple time with a half note as the unit (cut time)
<i>allargando</i>	Broadening
<i>ancora</i>	Still more ____
<i>a tempo</i>	Original speed
<i>cedez</i>	Slight holding back of tempo
<i>come prima</i>	As at first
<i>come sopra</i>	As above
<i>doppio movimento</i>	Twice as fast
<i>l'istesso tempo</i>	The same tempo; beat remains constant while the meter changes
<i>meno mosso</i> <i>piu lento</i>	Less motion, slower
<i>piu allegro</i> <i>piu animato</i> <i>piu mosso</i>	Faster
<i>pressez</i>	Quicken
<i>rallentando</i>	Gradual slowing down
<i>ritardando</i>	Gradual slowing down
<i>ritenuto</i>	Sudden slowing down
<i>rubato</i>	"Robbing" the time values by holding back or speeding up at will
<i>stringendo</i>	Pressing forward
<i>tempo giusto</i>	Strict tempo
<i>tempo primo</i>	Original tempo

Taken from Gardner Read's book *Music Notation, A Manual of Modern Practice*