

Music

Tempo

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Italian terms describe tempo. Tempo means speed and is determined by the beat/pulse (how fast or slow you can tap your foot in time with the music).

Here are 6 Italian terms you are expected to know, regarding tempo.

- Accelerando
- Presto
- Lento
- Rit. (short for ritardando)
- Allegro
- Andante

Put a cross next to the terms that come under the concept of duration.

Put a star next to the terms that come under the concept of expressive techniques.

Match the above terms to the scenarios below. Each scenario has a different answer.

1. You are in the school track team, competing in Zone Athletics (so you are probably not a music student in this class). Final victory depends on you winning the 100m. What tempo marking reflects the speed at which you should run?
2. You have been sent to the Deputy Principal's office. You are waiting for him to finish meeting with another unsavoury student and you are sitting watching the clock, knowing that Lunch 2 is coming soon. What tempo marking reflects the speed at which the clock seems to be moving?
3. You are attending a rehearsal for your school graduation in September. What tempo marking would best describe the speed of your processional march into the hall?
4. You are running along the balcony, late for music (again) and you run into the principal who reprimands you for running. She heads off down the stairs and you dash ahead again. What tempo marking could be used to describe your resumed pace?
5. You are taking your driving test (for the third time). From a complete stop at the pedestrian crossing out the front of your local primary school, you accelerate to 40km/h before slowing to a stop at the next traffic lights. What two tempo markings describe your movements?