

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

- 1 In writing music, tempo marks tell the _____.
- 2 A very slow tempo marking is _____.
- 3 A lively and fast tempo marking is _____.
- 4 Match the Italian term to its English meaning by writing the correct letter in each blank.

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

Tempo Marks on Safari

- 1** On each line, write the Italian translation of the tempo mark indicated below the line.
Use the following tempo marks:

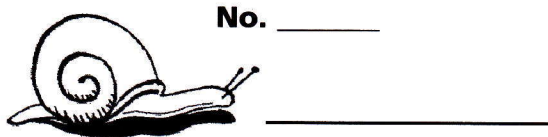
Accelerando, Adagio, Allegro, Andante, Largo, Moderato, Ritardando, Vivace

In deepest Africa a jeep moves at a _____ pace. Through the trees, a giraffe moves
at _____ *moderate*
_____ *walking speed*. A bird flies past the adventurers _____ *quickly and cheerfully*. Turning, they
spot an elephant herd lumbering _____ toward them. Later, the passengers
_____ *slowly*
of the jeep are startled when a lion runs past, _____. A hippo and her
_____ *lively and fast*
baby move _____ across the road and the jeep _____ to a stop.
_____ *very slowly* _____ *gradually slows*
As the sun sets over the plain, the jeep goes _____, headed back to camp.
_____ *gradually faster*

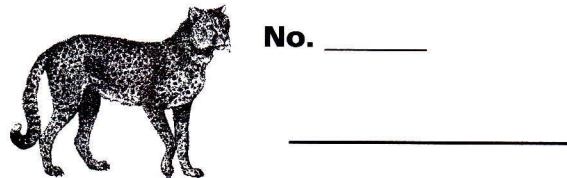
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- 2** Number the pictures below from 1 (slowest) to 6 (fastest) and write the appropriate tempo marking for each on the line.

Slower



Faster



No. _____



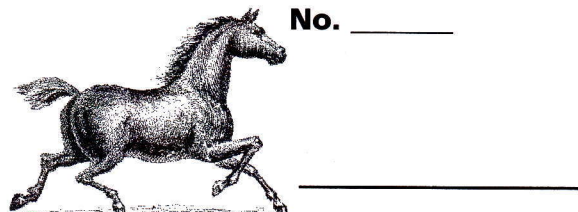
No. _____



No. _____



No. _____



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