



# TEMPO is...

the speed of the beat.

**Allegro  
Vivace**

Fast / Lively / Quick

**Moderato  
Andante**

Not too slow / at  
a moderate pace, a  
'walking' speed

**Allegretto**

Moderately fast

**Adagio  
Lento**

Slow / Leisurely

**Accelerando** gradually getting faster.

**Ritardando / Rallentando** slowing down.

**Rubato** a 'freer' interpretation of the tempo.

**Pause** a symbol which means the note  
must be held for longer than its original value.



Some other useful terms:

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Presto</b>    | - very quick            |
| <b>Largo</b>     | - very slow             |
| <b>A tempo</b>   | - in the original tempo |
| <b>Ritenuato</b> | - in slower time        |