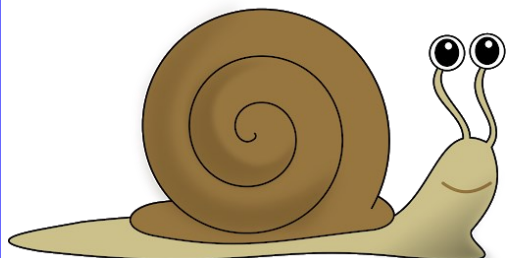


Tempo is the **speed of the music**. You might know some slow songs that you love singing along to. You probably also have a favourite fast song that makes you want to get up and dance. Most pieces will tell you what tempo to play at the start, and these words are usually written in Italian. Some of the most common ones are explained below:



Adagio and Lento both mean slow

An example of an adagio piece of music would be Barber's 'Adagio for Strings'. How slowly would you move to this?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KylMqxLzNGo>

Andante means at a medium "walking" pace

An example of an andante piece of music would be

'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'. See if you can walk along to this song the next time you hear it!



Allegro means at a quick pace

An example of an allegro piece of music would be the opening of Mozart's 'Symphony no.40 in G Minor'. See if you can clap the beat...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hJf4Zffkol>

Accelerando means gradually getting quicker

This can be marked anywhere in a piece. There is an example of an accelerando in Zorba the Greek, which gets quicker and quicker...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG12C1oX5Eo>



Rallentando and Ritardando both mean gradually getting slower

This usually comes at the end of a piece of music. An example of a rallentando in a piece would be at the end of the song 'Happy Birthday'. Try singing it to yourself and notice how you slow down at the end!