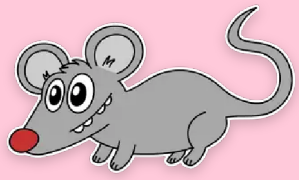
MUSIC THEORY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 1–2

Soft or Loud? Dynamics Match



Dynamics tell you how loud or soft to play. Draw a line from each sign to what it means.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

The signs come from Italian words. **p** is for piano, which means soft. **f** is for forte, which means loud. **m** is for mezzo, which means medium.

p	●	● medium loud
mp	●	● soft
mf	●	● loud
f	●	● medium soft

Soft or loud? Circle the dynamic that fits best.

A lullaby for a sleepy baby	p (soft)	f (loud)
A marching band in a parade	p (soft)	f (loud)
A mouse tiptoeing across the floor	p (soft)	f (loud)
A lion roaring	p (soft)	f (loud)
Thunder booming in a storm	p (soft)	f (loud)

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MUSIC THEORY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 2–4

Dynamics from Softest to Loudest

Number the six dynamics from 1, the softest, to 6, the loudest, then finish the sentences.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Number the dynamics from 1 (softest) to 6 (loudest).

f	*pp*	*mf*	*p*	*ff*	*mp*
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Word bank

dynamics · loud · medium · soft

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

1. The signs that tell how loud or soft to play are called _____.

2. Pianissimo (pp) means very _____.

3. Fortissimo (ff) means very _____.

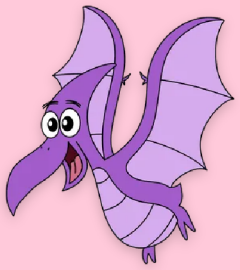
4. Mezzo, the m in mp and mf, means _____.

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MUSIC THEORY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 2–4

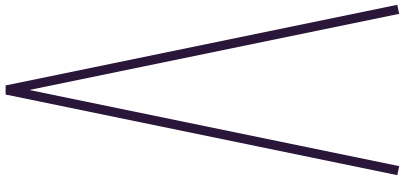
Getting Louder, Getting Softer

A crescendo gets louder little by little. A decrescendo gets softer. Circle the right word for each one.



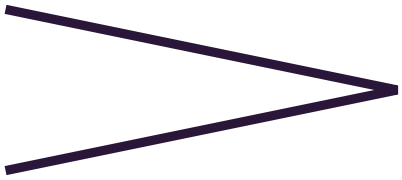
Name: _____ **Date:** _____

What does each sign tell you to do? Write "get louder" or "get softer".



crescendo: the sign opens up

_____



decrescendo: the sign closes

_____

Crescendo or decrescendo? Circle the one that fits.

A train comes closer and closer.	crescendo	decrescendo
A parade marches away down the street.	crescendo	decrescendo
A few raindrops turn into a storm.	crescendo	decrescendo
An echo fades away in a cave.	crescendo	decrescendo
A crowd starts to cheer as the runner nears the finish line.	crescendo	decrescendo
A music box slowly winds down.	crescendo	decrescendo

Draw each sign.

crescendo

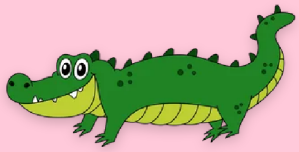
decrescendo

Art © Kevin Coulston

MUSIC THEORY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 3–5

Tempo Words: Slow to Fast

Tempo is the speed of the beat. Match each Italian tempo word to its meaning, then put them in order.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Match each tempo word to its meaning.

Largo ●	● fast and lively
Adagio ●	● slow and calm
Andante ●	● very fast
Moderato ●	● very slow and broad
Allegro ●	● at a medium speed
Presto ●	● at a walking speed

Which tempo fits best? Circle it.

A sleepy lullaby	(Presto) (Adagio)
A cheetah racing across the grass	(Presto) (Largo)
Walking to school with a friend	(Andante) (Presto)
An elephant taking slow, heavy steps	(Allegro) (Largo)

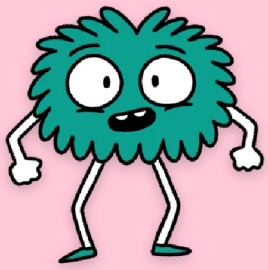
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MUSIC THEORY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 2–5

Dynamics and Tempo Word Search

Find twelve dynamics and tempo words. They go across, down and diagonally.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



N	D	Y	N	A	M	I	C	S	N	U	P
S	F	M	T	P	R	E	L	O	S	M	S
C	I	O	K	A	N	P	Z	A	R	C	E
E	R	D	W	O	L	H	O	Z	R	Y	N
P	R	E	S	T	O	L	R	I	O	G	E
F	I	R	S	A	S	K	E	B	K	O	O
O	S	A	E	C	D	R	S	G	D	M	F
R	E	T	N	B	E	A	E	E	R	T	S
T	A	O	P	O	H	N	G	F	N	O	S
E	G	T	E	M	P	O	D	I	N	R	D
A	N	D	A	N	T	E	S	O	O	E	I
W	O	I	K	Y	N	L	W	I	U	N	R

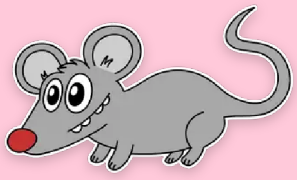
- ☐ piano
- ☐ forte
- ☐ mezzo
- ☐ crescendo
- ☐ allegro
- ☐ largo
- ☐ presto
- ☐ tempo
- ☐ adagio
- ☐ andante
- ☐ dynamics
- ☐ moderato

Art © Kevin Coulston

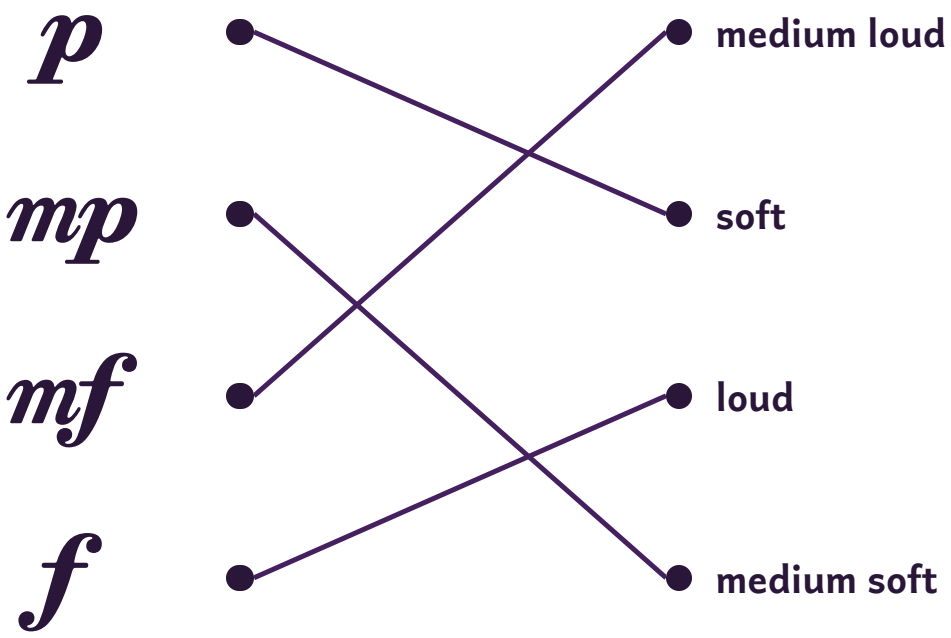
ANSWER KEY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 1–2

Answer Key: Soft or Loud? Dynamics Match

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.



The signs come from Italian words. **p** is for piano, which means soft. **f** is for forte, which means loud. **m** is for mezzo, which means medium.



Soft or loud? Circle the dynamic that fits best.

A lullaby for a sleepy baby	**p (soft)**	f (loud)
A marching band in a parade	p (soft)	**f (loud)**
A mouse tiptoeing across the floor	**p (soft)**	f (loud)
A lion roaring	p (soft)	**f (loud)**
Thunder booming in a storm	p (soft)	**f (loud)**

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Dynamics from Softest to Loudest

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Number the dynamics from 1 (softest) to 6 (loudest).

f	*pp*	*mf*	*p*	*ff*	*mp*
5	1	4	2	6	3

Word bank

dynamics · loud · medium · soft

Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

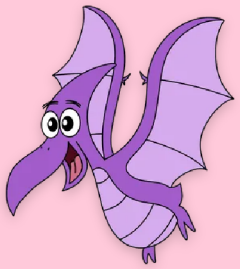
1. The signs that tell how loud or soft to play are called **dynamics**.
2. Pianissimo (pp) means very **soft**.
3. Fortissimo (ff) means very **loud**.
4. Mezzo, the m in mp and mf, means **medium**.

Art © Kevin Coulston

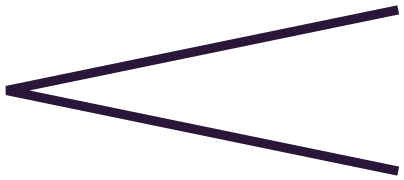
ANSWER KEY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Getting Louder, Getting Softer

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.

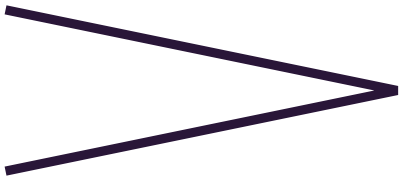


What does each sign tell you to do? Write "get louder" or "get softer".



crescendo: the sign opens up

get louder



decrescendo: the sign closes

get softer

Crescendo or decrescendo? Circle the one that fits.

A train comes closer and closer.	**crescendo**	decrescendo
A parade marches away down the street.	crescendo	**decrescendo**
A few raindrops turn into a storm.	**crescendo**	decrescendo
An echo fades away in a cave.	crescendo	**decrescendo**
A crowd starts to cheer as the runner nears the finish line.	**crescendo**	decrescendo
A music box slowly winds down.	crescendo	**decrescendo**

Draw each sign.

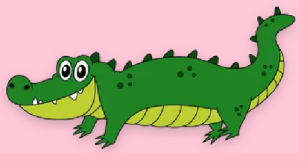
crescendo

decrescendo

Art © Kevin Coulston

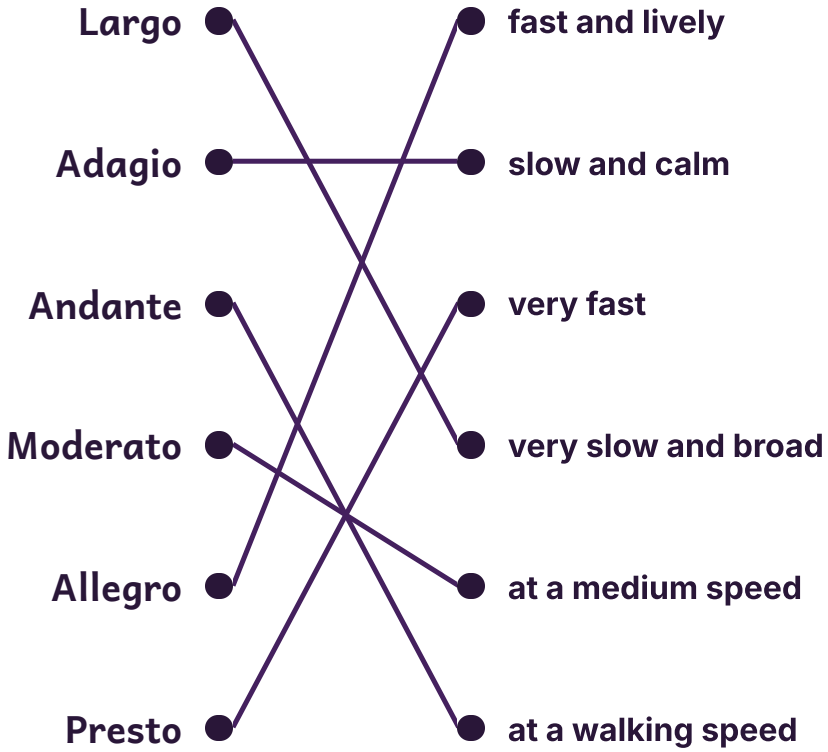
ANSWER KEY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Tempo Words: Slow to Fast



Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.

Match each tempo word to its meaning.



Which tempo fits best? Circle it.

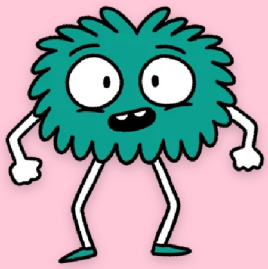
A sleepy lullaby	Presto	**Adagio**
A cheetah racing across the grass	**Presto**	Largo
Walking to school with a friend	**Andante**	Presto
An elephant taking slow, heavy steps	Allegro	**Largo**

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DYNAMICS AND TEMPO · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Dynamics and Tempo Word Search

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.



N	D	Y	N	A	M	I	C	S	N	U	P
S	F	M	T	P	R	E	L	O	S	M	S
C	I	O	K	A	N	P	Z	A	R	C	E
E	R	D	W	O	L	H	O	Z	R	Y	N
P	R	E	S	T	O	L	R	I	O	G	E
F	I	R	S	A	S	K	E	B	K	O	O
O	S	A	E	C	D	R	S	G	D	M	F
R	E	T	N	B	E	A	E	E	R	T	S
T	A	O	P	O	H	N	G	F	N	O	S
E	G	T	E	M	P	O	D	I	N	R	D
A	N	D	A	N	T	E	S	O	O	E	I
W	O	I	K	Y	N	L	W	I	U	N	R

- ☐ piano
- ☐ forte
- ☐ mezzo
- ☐ crescendo
- ☐ allegro
- ☐ largo
- ☐ presto
- ☐ tempo
- ☐ adagio
- ☐ andante
- ☐ dynamics
- ☐ moderato

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