Italian tempo words have guided performers for centuries. Since the metronome was patented in 1815, each term maps to a rough **metronome** BPM range.

Slow markings

Grave is very slow and solemn, roughly 25–45 BPM. Largo is broad, about 40–60 BPM. Adagio is slow and at ease, around 66–76 BPM.

Middle markings

Andante is a relaxed walking pace. Moderato sits in the middle.

Fast markings

Allegro is lively and quick. Vivace is lively, around 156–176 BPM. Presto is very fast, about 168–200 BPM, and Prestissimo is ***free metronome MetronomeWorld*** faster still.

Choosing the exact tempo

The words describe character as well as speed. Consider the meter, note values and period when choosing a BPM.