



Musical term	Alternatives	Definition / meaning	Language
<i>accelerando</i>	<i>accel.</i>	gradually getting quicker	Italian
<i>adagio</i>		slow	Italian
<i>allegretto</i>		fairly quick (but not as quick as allegro)	Italian
<i>allegro</i>		quick (literally "cheerful")	Italian
<i>andante</i>		at a medium ("walking") speed	Italian
<i>cantabile</i>		in a singing style	Italian
<i>crescendo</i>	<i>cresc.</i>	gradually getting louder	Italian
<i>da capo</i>	<i>D.C.</i>	repeat from the beginning	Italian
<i>dal segno</i>	<i>D.S.</i>	repeat from the sign	Italian
<i>decrescendo</i>	<i>decresc.</i>	gradually getting quieter	Italian
<i>diminuendo</i>	<i>dim.</i>	gradually getting quieter	Italian
<i>fine</i>		the end	Italian
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	loud	Italian
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	very loud	Italian
<i>legato</i>		smoothly	Italian
<i>lento</i>		slow	Italian
<i>mezzo</i>		half	Italian
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	moderately loud ("half loud")	Italian
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	moderately quiet ("half quiet")	Italian
<i>moderato</i>		moderately (allegro moderato: moderately quick)	Italian
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	quiet	Italian
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	very quiet	Italian
<i>poco</i>		a little	Italian

<i>rallentando</i>	<i>rall.</i>	gradually getting slower	Italian
<i>ritardando</i>	<i>ritard., rit.</i>	gradually getting slower	Italian
<i>ritenuto</i>	<i>riten., rit.</i>	held back, slower (immediately, not gradually)	Italian
<i>staccato</i>	<i>stacc.</i>	detached	Italian
<i>tempo</i>		speed, time	Italian
<i>a</i>		to / at / in / by / for, etc.	Italian
<i>alla</i>	<i>all', al</i>	to the / at the / in the manner of	Italian
<i>allargando</i>		broadening (getting slower, louder)	Italian
<i>andantino</i>		slightly faster than andante	Italian
<i>assai</i>		very (allegro assai: very quick)	Italian
<i>con</i>	<i>col</i>	with	Italian
<i>dolce</i>		sweet, soft	Italian
<i>e</i>	<i>ed</i>	and	Italian
<i>espressivo</i>	<i>espress., espr.</i>	expressive	Italian
<i>fp</i>	<i>fortepiano</i>	loud, then immediately quiet	Italian
<i>giocoso</i>		playful, merry, humorous	Italian
<i>grave</i>		very slow, solemn, serious	Italian
<i>grazioso</i>		graceful	Italian
<i>larghetto</i>		rather slow (not as slow as largo)	Italian
<i>largo</i>		slow, stately	Italian
<i>ma</i>		but	Italian
<i>maestoso</i>		majestic	Italian
<i>meno</i>		less	Italian
<i>molto</i>		very, much	Italian
<i>mosso</i>	<i>moto</i>	movement	Italian
<i>presto</i>		fast (faster than allegro)	Italian
<i>senza</i>		without	Italian
<i>sf</i>	<i>sfz, sforzando, sforzato</i>	forced, accented	Italian

<i>simile</i>	<i>sim.</i>	in the same way ("similarly")	Italian
<i>sostenuto</i>		sustained	Italian
<i>tenuto</i>	<i>ten.</i>	held (sustain to the note's full value)	Italian
<i>troppo</i>		too much (non troppo: not too much)	Italian
<i>vivace</i>	<i>vivo</i>	lively, quick	Italian
<i>adagietto</i>		rather slow (faster than adagio)	Italian
<i>ad libitum</i>	<i>ad lib.</i>	the marked passage can be played freely ("at choice")	Italian
<i>agitato</i>		agitated	Italian
<i>alla breve</i>		with a minim beat, for example in cut-common or 2/2 time	Italian
<i>amore</i>		love	Italian
<i>amoroso</i>		loving	Italian
<i>anima</i>		soul, spirit (con anima: with feeling / spirited)	Italian
<i>animato</i>		animated, lively	Italian
<i>animando</i>		becoming more lively	Italian
<i>ben</i>		well	Italian
<i>brio</i>		vigour (con brio: with vigour, i.e. lively)	Italian
<i>comodo</i>		convenient (tempo comodo: at a comfortable speed)	Italian
<i>deciso</i>		"decided", with resolution, determined	Italian
<i>delicato</i>		delicate	Italian
<i>energico</i>		energetic	Italian
<i>forza</i>		force	Italian
<i>largamente</i>		broadly	Italian
<i>leggiere</i>		light, (as in not heavy), nimble	Italian
<i>marcato</i>	<i>marc.</i>	emphatic, accented	Italian
<i>marziale</i>		"martial", in a military style	Italian
<i>mesto</i>		sad	Italian
<i>pesante</i>		heavy	Italian
<i>prima</i>	<i>primo</i>	first	Italian

<i>risoluto</i>		bold, strong	Italian
<i>ritmico</i>		rhythmically	Italian
<i>rubato</i>		"robbed"; tempo rubato. "robbed time"; disregarding strict time for expressive effect	Italian
<i>scherzando</i>	<i>scherzoso</i>	playful, joking	Italian
<i>seconda</i>	<i>secondo</i>	second	Italian
<i>semplice</i>		simple, plain	Italian
<i>sempre</i>		always	Italian
<i>stringendo</i>		gradually getting faster	Italian
<i>subito</i>		suddenly	Italian
<i>tanto</i>		as / so much (non tanto: not so much)	Italian
<i>tranquillo</i>		tranquil, calm	Italian
<i>triste</i>	<i>tristamente</i>	sad, sorrowful	Italian
<i>volta</i>		time (as in occasion, e.g. prima volta: first time, seconda volta: second time)	Italian
<i>affetuoso</i>		affectionate, tender	Italian
<i>affrettando</i>		hurrying	Italian
<i>amabile</i>		"amiable", pleasant	Italian
<i>appassionato</i>		passionately	Italian
<i>calando</i>		getting softer, dying away (perhaps also slowing down)	Italian
<i>cantando</i>		singing (in a singing style)	Italian
<i>come</i>		as / similar to (come prima: as before / as at first; come sopra: as above)	Italian
<i>facile</i>		easy	Italian
<i>fuoco</i>		fire (con fuoco: wild and fast)	Italian
<i>giusto</i>		strict, proper, exact (tempo giusto: in strict time, the opposite of rubato)	Italian
<i>l'istesso</i>		the same (l'istesso tempo: at the same speed)	Italian
<i>morendo</i>		dying away	Italian
<i>niente</i>		nothing (diminuendo a niente: fade to nothing, to silence)	Italian
<i>nobilmente</i>		nobly	Italian
<i>perdendosi</i>		gradually dying away ("losing itself")	Italian

<i>possibile</i>		"... as possible" (lento possibile: as slow as possible, p possibile: as quiet as possible)	Italian
<i>quasi</i>		as if, resembling, like	Italian
<i>sonoro</i>		sonorous, resonant, with rich tone	Italian
<i>sopra</i>		above	Italian
<i>sotto</i>		below (sotto voce: in an undertone, whispered)	Italian
<i>veloce</i>		swift	Italian
<i>voce</i>		voice	Italian
<i>à</i>		to, at (Italian: a)	French
<i>animé</i>		animated, lively (Italian: animato)	French
<i>assez</i>		enough, sufficiently, rather; assez vite: rather quick	French
<i>avec</i>		with (Italian: con)	French
<i>cédez</i>		yield, relax the speed	French
<i>douce</i>		sweet (Italian: dolce)	French
<i>en dehors</i>		outside, emphasised, prominent	French
<i>et</i>		and (Italian: e / ed)	French
<i>légèrement</i>		light (Italian: leggiero)	French
<i>lent</i>		slow (Italian: lento)	French
<i>mais</i>		but (Italian: ma)	French
<i>moins</i>		less (Italian: meno)	French
<i>modéré</i>		at a moderate speed (Italian: moderato)	French
<i>non</i>		not	French
<i>peu</i>		little (Italian: poco)	French
<i>plus</i>		more (Italian: più)	French
<i>presser</i>	<i>pressez</i>	hurry; en pressant: hurrying on (Italian: affretando)	French
<i>ralentir</i>		slow down (Italian: rallentando)	French
<i>retenu</i>		held back; en retenant: holding back (Italian: ritenuto)	French
<i>sans</i>		without (Italian: senza)	French
<i>très</i>		very (similar to Italian: assai)	French
<i>un</i>	<i>une</i>	one	French

<i>vif</i>		lively (Italian: vivace / vivo)	French
<i>vite</i>		quick (Italian: allegro)	
<i>attacca</i>		immediately continue with the next section (or movement) of music	Italian
<i>dolente</i>		doleful, sad, mournful	Italian
<i>dolore</i>		grief (doloroso: sorrowful)	Italian
<i>doppio movimento</i>		twice as fast (similar to alla breve)	Italian
<i>estinto</i>		as soft as possible, lifeless (literally "extinguished")	Italian
<i>incalzando</i>		chasing, pressing on, i.e. getting quicker	Italian
<i>lacrimoso</i>		sad, tearful	Italian
<i>loco</i>		cancels an 8va indication: return to the normal pitch	Italian
<i>lunga</i>		long (often referring to a pause, pausa lunga: long pause)	Italian
<i>lusingando</i>		coaxing, persuasive, flattering	Italian
<i>misura</i>		measure / bar (alla misura: in strict time, senza misura: in free time)	Italian
<i>ossia</i>		or / alternatively	Italian
<i>piacevole</i>		pleasant	Italian
<i>piangevole</i>		plaintive, lamenting	Italian
<i>pochettino</i>	<i>poch.</i>	very little (i.e. a stronger version of "poco")	Italian
<i>rinforzando</i>	<i>rf, rfz</i>	reinforcing	Italian
<i>segue</i>		go straight on (similar to attacca)	Italian
<i>smorzando</i>	<i>smorz.</i>	dying away (in tone and speed)	Italian
<i>teneramente</i>	<i>tenerezza</i>	tenderly, tenderness	Italian
<i>tosto</i>		swift, rapid, at once (più tosto: quicker)	Italian
<i>volante</i>		flying, fast	Italian
<i>aber</i>		but (Italian: ma)	German
<i>Ausdruck</i>		expression	German
<i>bewegt</i>		with movement, agitated (Italian: a combination of con moto and agitato)	German
<i>breit</i>		broad, expansive (Italian: largamente)	German
<i>ein</i>		a, one	German

<i>einfach</i>		simple (Italian: semplice)	German
<i>etwas</i>		somewhat, rather (Italian: poco)	German
<i>fröhlich</i>		cheerful, joyful (Italian: giocoso)	German
<i>immer</i>		always (Italian: sempre)	German
<i>langsam</i>		slow (Italian: lento)	German
<i>lebhaft</i>		lively (Italian: vivace)	German
<i>mässig</i>		at a moderate speed (Italian: moderato)	German
<i>mit</i>		with (Italian: con)	German
<i>nicht</i>		not (Italian: non)	German
<i>ohne</i>		without (Italian: senza)	German
<i>ruhig</i>		peaceful	German
<i>schnell</i>		fast	German
<i>sehr</i>		very (Italian: molto)	German
<i>süss</i>		sweet	German
<i>traurig</i>		sad	German
<i>und</i>		and (Italian: e / ed)	German
<i>voll</i>		full	German
<i>wenig</i>		little, slightly	German
<i>wieder</i>		again	German
<i>zart</i>		tender, delicate	German
<i>zu</i>		too (nicht zu schnell: not too fast), also to / towards	German