

# Grade 1 Theory of Music

## TERMS AND SIGNS

### DYNAMICS

<b>Italian Term</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>English Meaning</b>
fortissimo	ff	very loud
forte	f	loud
mezzo forte	mf	moderately loud
mezzo piano	mp	moderately quiet
piano	p	quiet
crescendo	cresc.	gradually getting louder
decrescendo	decresc.	gradually getting quieter
diminuendo	dim.	gradually getting quieter

### TEMPO

<b>Italian Term</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>English Meaning</b>
allegro	N/A	quick
allegretto	N/A	fairly quick
moderato	N/A	at a moderate speed
andante	N/A	at a medium speed
adagio	N/A	slow
accelerando	accel.	gradually getting louder
decrescendo	decresc.	gradually getting quieter
diminuendo	ritard. or rit.	gradually getting quieter
a tempo	N/A	in time (resume the original speed)

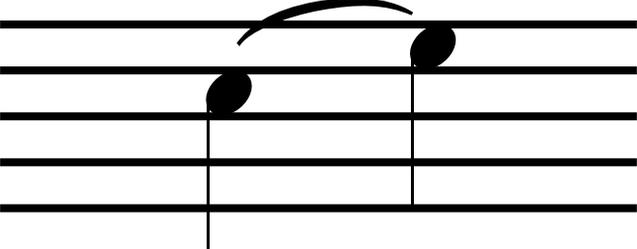
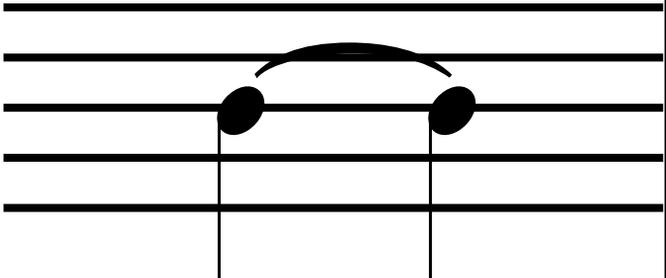
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### More Italian Terms

Italian Term	Abbreviation	English Meaning
cantabile	N/A	in a singing style
da capo	D.C	repeat from the beginning
dolce	N/A	Sweetly
fine	N/A	the end
al fine	N/A	up to the end
legato	N/A	smoothly
staccato	stacc.	detached

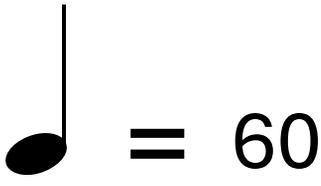
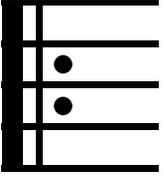
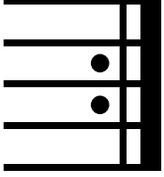
### SIGNS

Italian sign	Meaning
	gradually getting louder (the sign for crescendo)
	gradually getting quieter (the sign for diminuendo)
	accent the note (play with emphasis)
	slur; perform smoothly
	tie, hold for the value of both notes

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### SIGNS

Italian sign	Meaning
	staccato; detached
 or 	pause on the note or rest
	metronome mark; here the number 60 tells us to play at a tempo of 60 crotchet beats per minute
 	repeat the section between the two signs. (If the first sign is missing, repeat from the beginning)