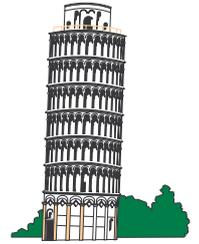
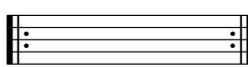


**ABRSM Theory
Term and Signs
Grades 1-3**

Grade 1 ABRSM



<i>Adagio</i>	-	slowly
<i>Andante</i>	-	at an easy walking pace
<i>Moderato</i>	-	at a moderate speed
<i>Allegro</i>	-	lively and fast
<i>Accelerando (accel.)</i>	-	gradually becoming faster
<i>Allegretto</i>	-	moderately fast
<i>Rallentando (rall.)</i>	-	gradually becoming slower
<i>Ritardando (rit. / ritard.)</i>	-	gradually becoming slower
<i>Ritenuito (riten. / rit.)</i>	-	immediately slower
<i>A tempo</i>	-	return to former speed ('in time')
<i>Cantabile</i>	-	in a singing style
<i>Da Capo al fine (D.C. al fine)</i>	-	- from the beginning until 'fine'
<i>Dal Segno (D.S.)</i> 	-	from the sign
<i>Leggiero</i>	-	lightly
<i>Molto</i>	-	very
<i>Poco</i>	-	a little
<i>Crescendo (cresc.)</i>	-	gradually becoming louder
<i>Decrescendo (decresc.)</i>	-	gradually becoming softer
<i>Diminuendo (dim.)</i>	-	gradually becoming softer
<i>Lento</i>	-	slowly
<i>Legato</i>	-	smooth, well connected
<i>Staccato</i>	-	short and detached
MM.  = 80	-	Maelzel's metronome, 80 beats per minute

Sign	Name	Meaning
	Crescendo	Gradually becoming louder
	Decrescendo/Diminuendo	Gradually becoming softer
	Staccato	Short and detached
<i>mf, f, ff</i>	Mezzo forte, Forte, Fortissimo	Moderately loud, Loud, Very loud (‘m’ and ‘f’ always written lower case)
<i>mp, p, pp</i>	Mezzo piano, Piano, Pianissimo	Moderately soft, Soft, Very soft (‘m’ and ‘p’ always written lower case)
	Slur	Play smoothly (can be over two or more notes)
	Tie	Play the first note and hold for value of both
	Pause or ‘fermata’	Hold for longer than written value
	Accent	Play strongly
	Repeat	Repeat the music between the dots
<i>8va</i>  or <i>8vb</i> 	‘Ottava’ sign (over or under notes)	Play one octave higher or lower than written

Grade 2 ABRSM



<i>allargando</i>	-	becoming broader
<i>andantino</i>	-	literally 'small andante'; slightly faster OR slower than 'andante' (walking pace)
<i>assai</i>	-	very (e.g. 'allegro assai' = very quick)
<i>con</i>	-	with (e.g. 'con grazia' = with grace)
<i>con moto</i>	-	with movement
<i>dolce</i>	-	soft and sweet, sweetly
<i>espressivo (espress.)</i>	-	expressively
<i>forte-piano (fp)</i>	-	loud then immediately soft
<i>giocoso</i>	-	playful, merry
<i>grave</i>	-	very slow, solemn
<i>grazioso</i>	-	gracefully
<i>largo</i>	-	broadly, slowly
<i>larghetto</i>	-	rather broadly (i.e. not as slow as 'largo')
<i>maestoso</i>	-	majestically
<i>meno mosso</i>	-	less speed (slower)
<i>molto</i>	-	very (e.g. 'molto espr.' = very expressive)
<i>non troppo</i>	-	not too much
<i>piu mosso</i>	-	more speed (faster)
<i>presto</i>	-	very fast
<i>senza</i>	-	without
<i>sforzando (sfz or sf)</i>	-	a strong accent, forced
<i>simile (sim.)</i>	-	continue in the same way
<i>sostenuto</i>	-	sustained
<i>tenuto</i>	-	'held'; hold note for its full value/ play with slight pressure
<i>vivace/vivo</i>	-	lively and spirited

Sign	Name of sign	Meaning of Sign
	accent	play strongly
	tenuto	hold for full value of note/ play note with a slight pressure
	mezzo-staccato (on one note)	moderately short and detached
	mezzo-staccato (on more than one note)	moderately short and detached
	strong accent (also called ' <i>marcato</i> ')	play strongly
	staccatissimo	extremely short and detached

Grade 3 ABRSM



<i>adagietto</i>	-	rather slow (not as slow as 'adagio')
<i>ad libitum (ad lib.)</i>	-	play freely
<i>agitato</i>	-	agitated
<i>alla breve (♩)</i>	-	with a minim beat, in $\frac{2}{2}$ (usually faster than $\frac{4}{4}$)
<i>amore/amoroso</i>	-	love/loving
<i>animato</i>	-	animated, lively
<i>ben marcato</i>	-	well marked
<i>comodo</i>	-	convenient/comfortable
<i>con anima</i>	-	with feeling, with spirit
<i>con brio</i>	-	with vigour
<i>con forza</i>	-	with force
<i>deciso</i>	-	with determination
<i>delicato</i>	-	delicately
<i>energico</i>	-	energetically
<i>largamente</i>	-	broadly
<i>leggero</i>	-	lightly
<i>marziale</i>	-	in a military style
<i>mesto</i>	-	sad
<i>pesante</i>	-	heavy
<i>prima/primo</i>	-	first (e.g. ' <i>prima volta</i> ' = first time)

<i>risoluto</i>	-	bold, resolute
<i>ritmico</i>	-	rhythmically
<i>rubato/tempo rubato</i>	-	with freedom of tempo
<i>scherzando/scherzoso</i>	-	playfully, jokingly
<i>seconda/secondo</i>	-	second
<i>semplice</i>	-	simple
<i>sempre</i>	-	always
<i>stringendo</i>	-	getting faster
<i>subito</i>	-	suddenly
<i>tanto</i>	-	so much
<i>tranquillo</i>	-	calmly
<i>triste/tristamente</i>	-	sadly/sorrowfully