How To Pass

Signs and Italian Terms

AMEB Musicianship Grades 1-3

Grade 1 Musicianship



These are the Italian terms to learn for Grade 1.

Andante - at an easy walking pace

Moderato - at a moderate speed

Allegro - lively and fast

Allegretto - moderately fast

Rallentando (rall.) - gradually becoming slower

Ritardando (rit. / ritard.) - gradually becoming slower

A tempo - return to former speed

Crescendo (cresc.) - gradually becoming louder

Diminuendo (dim.) - gradually becoming softer

Forte (f) - loud

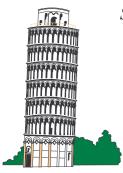
 $Piano\left(oldsymbol{p}
ight)$ - soft

Mezzo forte (mf) - moderately loud

Mezzo piano (mp) - moderately soft

Legato - smooth, well connected

Staccato - short and detached



Grade 1 Musicianship

Sign	Name	Meaning
	Crescendo	Gradually becoming louder
	Diminuendo	Gradually becoming softer
or i	Staccato	Short and detached
f	Forte	Loud ('f' always written lower case)
p	Piano	Soft ('p' always written lower case)
	Slur or phrase mark	Play smoothly (can be over two or more notes)
	Tie	Play the first note and hold for value of both
	Bar line	Divides music into equal sections according to time signature
	Double bar line	Indicates the end of a piece or important section

Grade 2 Musicianship



There are quite a few new Italian terms to learn in Grade 2. You need to know these in addition to the Grade 1 terms.

Accelerando (accel.) - gradually becoming faster

Meno mosso - slower (less speed)

Piu mosso - quicker (more speed)

Lento - slowly

Vivace - lively and spirited

Fortissimo (ff) - very loud

Pianissimo(pp) - very soft

Decrescendo (decresc.) - gradually becoming softer

Maestoso - majestic

Mezzo staccato - moderately short

and detached

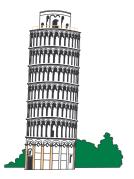
Molto - very

Poco - a little

Senza - without

Sempre - always

Sostenuto - sustained



Grade 2 Musicianship

Sign	Name of sign	Meaning of Sign
	Pause or 'fermata' (always placed above the note)	Hold for longer than written value
	Accent	Play strongly
Ė	Mezzo staccato (on one note)	Moderately short and detached
	Mezzo staccato (on more than one note)	Moderately short and detached
3	Triplet	3 notes played in the time of 2 notes of equal value
• •	Repeat	Repeat the music between the dots
	Strong accent (also called 'Marcato')	Play strongly

Grade 3 Musicianship



The terms listed below are in addition to the terms for Grades 1 and 2.

Adagio - slowly

Con moto - with movement

Presto - very fast

Con grazia - with grace

Dolce - soft and sweet, sweetly

Tenuto (ten.) - hold the note for its full value

Cantabile - in a singing style

Leggiero - lightly

Scherzando - playfully

Ben marcato - well marked

Una corda (U.C.) - (1 string) with the soft pedal

Tre corde (T.C.) - (3 strings) release the soft pedal

Da Capo al fine (D.C. al fine) - from the beginning

until the word 'fine'

Dal Segno (D.S.) - from the sign

 $Sforzando (sfz \ or \ sf)$ - a strong accent

8va ('ottava') - play one octave higher than written

M.M. - Maelzel's metronome

(metronome marking)



Grade 3 Musicianship

Sign	Name of sign	Meaning of Sign
M.M.	Maelzel's Metronome	Metronome marking
M.M. = 60	Maelzel's Metronome	Set metronome to beat at 60 crotchets per minute
8va	Ottava	Play one octave higher than written
sf or sfz	Sforzando	A strong accent
	Duplet	2 notes played in the time of 3 notes of equal value