

AMEB Theory Terms

Grade 1

Speed

Adagio	Slowly
Andante	Easy walking pace
Moderato	Moderately
Allegro	Lively and fast
Presto	Very fast

Speed changes

Accelerando	(<i>accel.</i>) Gradually increase your speed
Rallentando	(<i>rall.</i>) Gradually slow down
Ritardando	(<i>ritard.</i> or <i>rit.</i>) Gradually slow down
Ritenuto	(<i>riten.</i> or <i>rit.</i>) immediately slow down, or hold back
A tempo	Back to normal speed

Sound

Crescendo	(<i>cres.</i> or <i>cresc.</i>) Gradually become louder
Decrescendo	(<i>decre.</i> or <i>decresc.</i>) Gradually become softer
Diminuendo	(<i>dim.</i>) Gradually become softer
Forte	(<i>f</i>) Loud
Piano	(<i>p</i>) Soft

Other terms

Legato	Smoothly
Staccato	Detached, short

AMEB Theory Terms

Grade 2 (in addition to Grade 1 terms)

Speed

Lento	<i>Slowly</i>
Largo	<i>Broadly</i>
Allegretto	<i>Moderately fast</i>
Vivace	<i>Lively</i>
Vivo	<i>Lively</i>

Speed changes

Allargando	<i>Becoming broader</i>
Piu mosso	<i>Quicker</i>
Meno mosso	<i>Slower</i>

Sound

Pianissimo	<i>(pp) Very soft</i>
Fortissimo	<i>(ff) Very loud</i>
Mezzo forte	<i>(mf) Moderately loud</i>
Mezzo piano	<i>(mp) Moderately soft</i>

Other terms

Maestoso	<i>Majestic</i>
Sostenuto	<i>Sustained</i>
Sempre	<i>Always</i>
Poco	<i>A little</i>
Molto	<i>Very</i>
Senza	<i>Without</i>
Cantabile	<i>In a singing style</i>
Leggiero	<i>Lightly</i>
Dal Segno	<i>From the sign</i>
Da capo al fine	<i>From the beginning until the word "fine"</i>
Mezzo staccato	<i>Moderately short and detached</i>

AMEB Theory Terms

Grade 3 (in addition to Grade 2 terms)

Speed

Largamente	<i>Broadly</i>
Larghetto	<i>Rather broadly</i>
Prestissimo	<i>Extremely fast - as fast as possible</i>
Con moto	<i>With movement</i>

Sound

Carlando	<i>Softer and slower</i>
Morendo	<i>Dying away</i>
Forte-piano	<i>(fp) Loud and then immediately soft</i>
Sforzando	<i>(sf or sfz) Strong accent</i>

Other terms

Agitato	<i>With agitation</i>
Attacca	<i>Go on, at once</i>
Animato	<i>Animatedly</i>
Tranquillo	<i>Calmly</i>
Con anima	<i>With feeling</i>
Con brio	<i>With spirit</i>
Con grazia	<i>With grace</i>
Con forza	<i>With force</i>
Dolce	<i>Soft and sweet</i>
Risoluto	<i>With resolution</i>
Ben marcato	<i>Well marked</i>
Main droit	<i>(M.D.) Right hand</i>
Main gauche	<i>(M.G.) Left hand</i>
Una corda	<i>With the soft pedal</i>
Tre corde	<i>Release the soft pedal</i>
Ad libitum	<i>Quite freely</i>
Opus	<i>Group of works</i>
Loco	<i>At normal pitch (after 8va sign)</i>

AMEB Theory Terms

Grade 4 (in addition to Grade 3 terms)

Speed

Tempo comodo	<i>At a comfortable speed</i>
Tempo giusto	<i>At a consistent speed</i>
L'istesso tempo	<i>At the same speed</i>
Non troppo	<i>Not too much</i>
Grave	<i>Slow and solemn</i>

Speed changes

Rubato	<i>With some freedom</i>
Stringendo	<i>Pressing on faster</i>

Sound

Perdendosi	<i>Fade away</i>
Smorzando	<i>Dying away</i>
Rinforzando	<i>(rfz or rf) Reinforce the tone</i>
Pesante	<i>Heavily</i>

Other terms

Cantando	<i>In a singing style</i>
Tenuto (ten.)	<i>Held</i>
Piacevole	<i>Pleasant, agreeable</i>
Portamento	<i>Smooth gliding from one note to another (singing or strings)</i>
Dolente	<i>Sadly</i>
Doloroso	<i>Sadly</i>
Sotto voce	<i>Softly in an undertone</i>
Giocoso	<i>Happy, merry</i>
Grazioso	<i>Gracefully</i>
Assai	<i>Very</i>
Quasi	<i>As if</i>
Scherzando	<i>Playfully</i>
Subito	<i>(sub.) Suddenly</i>

AMEB Theory Terms

Grade 4 Continued

Strings-specific terms

Sul ponticello	<i>(sul. pont.) Bow on or near the bridge</i>
Sul tasto	<i>Bow on or near the fingerboard</i>
Tremolo	<i>Bow very rapidly to produce a shimmering effect</i>
Pizzicato	<i>(pizz.) Pluck the string with the finger</i>
Arco	<i>Play with the bow (after a pizz. sign)</i>