

TEMPO MARKINGS

Tempo markings are used to indicate how fast a song, piece or passage is to be played. The following words are the most commonly used tempo markings.

Adagio = very slow **Andante** = slow; **Moderato** = moderate;

Allegro = fast, lively; **Presto** and **Vivace** = very fast

Tempo markings appear above the first measure of the music.



Sometimes the tempo is indicated using **metronome** markings. A metronome is a mechanical device which sounds exact beats at any given tempo or speed. The markings appear as follows:



In this case, the quarter note pulse will equal the corresponding number on the metronome. When a quarter note equals "120", it means that a quarter note would be played 120 times in one minute.

The following words are also related to tempo markings. They usually effect the music for shorter periods of time.

Ritardando or **Rallantando** (rit. or rall.) = play gradually slower

Accelerando (accel) = play gradually faster.

A Tempo = play at the original tempo indicated; resume strict time

Fermata (♯) = pause or hold the note longer than its normal value

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write the tempo markings for the following speeds.

fast _____ gradually getting faster _____

very slow _____ moderate _____

very fast _____ slow _____

gradually getting slower _____

2. A pause or hold in music is called a _____.