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## Performance directions

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From the Associated Board Guide to Music Theory

Many words which are not English, and many special signs, are used to explain how music is to be performed. The best way of getting to know them is to look them up as you come across them in your pieces and then remember them. Below are some of the very common directions.

<i>accelerando (or accel.)</i>	gradually getting quicker
<i>adagio</i>	slow
<i>allegretto</i>	fairly quick (but not as quick as <i>allegro</i> )
<i>allegro</i>	quick (literally 'cheerful')
<i>andante</i>	at a medium ('walking') speed
<i>cantabile</i>	in a singing style
<i>crescendo (or cresc.)</i>	gradually getting louder
<i>da capo (or D.C.)</i>	repeat from the beginning
<i>dal segno (or D.S.)</i>	repeat from the sign shown 
<i>decrescendo (or decresc.)</i>	gradually getting quieter
<i>diminuendo (or dim.)</i>	gradually getting quieter
<i>fine</i>	the end
<i>f (= forte)</i>	loud
<i>ff (= fortissimo)</i>	very loud
<i>legato</i>	smoothly
<i>lento</i>	slow
<i>mezzo</i>	half
<i>mf (= mezzo forte)</i>	moderately loud (literally 'half' loud)
<i>mp (= mezzo piano)</i>	moderately quiet (literally 'half' quiet)
<i>moderato</i>	moderately ( <i>allegro moderato</i> : moderately quick)
<i>p (= piano)</i>	quiet
<i>pp (= pianissimo)</i>	very quiet
<i>poco</i>	a little
<i>rallentando (or rall.)</i>	getting gradually slower
<i>ritardando (or ritard. or rit.)</i>	getting gradually slower
<i>ritenuto (or riten. or rit.)</i>	held back
<i>staccato (or stacc.)</i>	detached
<i>tempo</i>	speed, time ( <i>a tempo</i> : in time)

*fine!*