



**Dynamics**

Italian word	Abbreviation	Meaning
Fortissimo	<i>ff</i>	Very loud
Forte	<i>f</i>	Loud
Mezzo Forte	<i>mf</i>	Moderately loud
Mezzo Piano	<i>mp</i>	Moderately quiet
Piano	<i>p</i>	Quiet
Pianissimo	<i>pp</i>	Very quiet
Crescendo		Gradually getting louder
Decrescendo		Gradually getting quieter
Diminuendo		Gradually getting quieter

**Tempo**

Italian term	Meaning
Grave	Slow and solemn
Adagio	Slowly
Andante	Walking pace
Moderato	Moderate tempo
Allegro	Fast, quickly and bright
Presto	Extremely fast
Ritardando	Gradually slowing down
Accelerando	Gradually getting faster

**Home Learning** - Read and use the information on the left side of the sheet to answer the questions. **You will be tested on this next lesson.**

1	What is the Italian word for 'very loud' dynamics?	
2	What does the word 'forte' mean?	
3	What is the abbreviation for 'mezzo forte'?	
4	What does 'mezzo piano' mean?	
5	What is the Italian term for 'quiet' dynamics?	
6	What is the abbreviation for 'pianissimo'?	
7	What does 'Grave' mean?	
8	What is the Italian term for a slow tempo?	
9	What does the word 'andante' mean?	
10	What is the Italian term for a fast, quick and bright tempo?	
11	What does 'rallentando' mean?	
12	What is the Italian term for gradually getting faster?	
13	What does the word 'dynamics' mean?	
14	What does the word 'tempo' mean?	

## A Brief History of Drama

Drama, as a form of storytelling through performance, has a rich and varied history that stretches back thousands of years. It has evolved across cultures and centuries, reflecting the beliefs, values, and struggles of societies throughout time.

The origins of Western drama can be traced to **Ancient Greece** in the 5th century BCE. Greek drama began as part of religious festivals honoring Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. These festivals featured competitions in tragedy and comedy, with playwrights such as **Aeschylus**, **Sophocles**, and **Euripides** laying the foundation for dramatic structure and themes. Their plays explored profound human issues like fate, justice, and morality, and were performed in large amphitheaters to thousands of spectators.

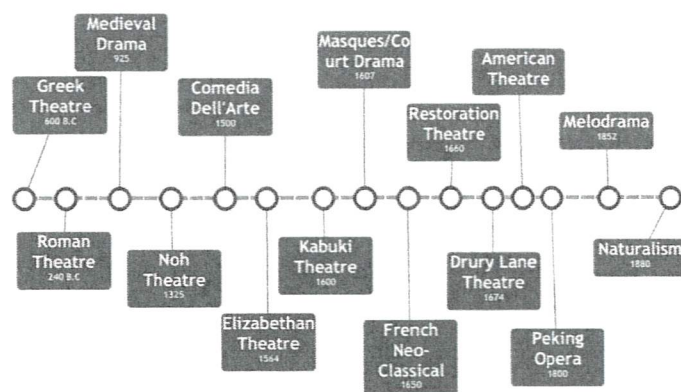
In contrast, **Ancient Roman drama**, which followed, focused more on spectacle and entertainment. Roman playwrights like **Plautus** and **Terence** borrowed heavily from Greek traditions but added their own comedic flair. Eventually, however, the decline of the Roman Empire and the rise of Christianity led to the suppression of theatrical performance, which was often associated with pagan rituals.

During the **Middle Ages**, drama reemerged in the form of **liturgical plays** performed in churches to teach Biblical stories. Over time, these evolved into **morality plays** and **mystery cycles**, which were staged by townspeople in public squares. These performances brought drama back to the people and made it an important tool for education and communal identity.

The **Renaissance** marked a major turning point in the history of drama, especially in England. This era saw the rise of professional theater companies and permanent playhouses, like the **Globe Theatre**. Playwrights such as **William Shakespeare**, **Christopher Marlowe**, and **Ben Jonson** expanded the scope of drama, blending classical influences with contemporary themes. Shakespeare, in particular, transformed English drama with his complex characters and poetic language, and his works remain central to theatrical tradition.

In the **18th and 19th centuries**, drama continued to evolve with the rise of realism and naturalism. Playwrights like **Henrik Ibsen**, **Anton Chekhov**, and **George Bernard Shaw** focused on everyday life and social issues, laying the groundwork for modern theater.

Today, drama takes many forms — from stage plays to films, television, and digital media — but its roots remain grounded in the human desire to tell stories and reflect the world around us. Whether in ancient amphitheaters or contemporary black box theaters, drama continues to entertain, challenge, and connect audiences across the globe.



1. Where did Western drama begin?
2. Which god was honored in early Greek drama?
3. Name one famous Greek playwright.
4. What kind of plays did the Romans prefer?
5. What happened to drama when Christianity became more powerful?
6. What were church plays called in the Middle Ages?
7. Which country became famous for drama during the Renaissance?
8. Who wrote plays like *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*?
9. What kind of stories did playwrights tell in the 1800s?
10. Where can we see drama today besides the stage?