

Max's Musical Dynamics Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and identify musical dynamics, including common Italian terms used to describe volume.

Max the monkey has been listening to the forest orchestra! Help him identify the correct terms for volume by answering these 10 questions. Read each question carefully before choosing your answer.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Piano, 4.B, 5.True, 6.Forte, 7.False, 8.A, 9.Crescendo, 10.B. Each correct answer is worth 1 mark.

Word bank: Piano · Forte · Crescendo · Diminuendo · Mezzo-piano · Mezzo-forte · Dynamics · Volume · Notation · Gradual

1. 1. What is the musical term for the volume of a sound? A) Tempo B) Pitch C) Dynamics* D) Rhythm (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The term 'Forte' means to play very quietly. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which Italian term means 'soft' or 'quiet'? (1 mark)

4. 4. What does 'Mezzo-forte' mean? A) Very loud B) Moderately loud* C) Very quiet D) Moderately quiet (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: A 'crescendo' means the music is gradually getting louder. (1 mark)

6. 6. If a composer writes 'f' on the sheet music, what dynamic level are they asking for? (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: 'Diminuendo' means the music is getting louder. (1 mark)

8. 8. Which of these symbols represents a crescendo? A) <* B) > C) = D) ~ (1 mark)

9. 9. If a drum beat starts quiet and slowly increases in volume, what dynamic change is occurring? (1 mark)

10. 10. What does 'p' stand for in musical notation? A) Powerful B) Piano* C) Percussion D) Playful (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey conducting a forest orchestra. Label the instruments he is using with dynamic markings like 'f' for loud drums or 'p' for quiet violins.



Extension challenge: Choose your favourite song and listen to it carefully. Write down three moments where the dynamics change—does the music get louder (crescendo) or quieter (diminuendo) at any point?