

Max's Musical Dynamics Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and apply musical terminology for dynamics, including piano, forte, crescendo, and decrescendo.

Max the monkey is organising a jungle concert! He has written a musical score, but he has forgotten the dynamic markings. Read the descriptions of how the music should sound in each section, then match the correct Italian dynamic term from the word bank to the description. Explain your choice for each.

Word bank: Piano (p) · Forte (f) · Crescendo · Decrescendo · Mezzo-piano (mp)

1. 1. The music starts as a quiet whisper of leaves rustling in the breeze. Which term should Max use? (2 marks)

2. 2. Suddenly, the lion Leo lets out a loud, bold roar that echoes through the trees. Which term describes this volume? (2 marks)

3. 3. The music begins to get gradually louder as the animals start their energetic dance. Which term shows this change? (2 marks)

4. 4. As the sun sets, the music needs to get gradually quieter until it fades away. Which term should Max write on the score? (2 marks)

5. 5. If 'Forte' means loud and 'Piano' means quiet, what does 'Mezzo-piano' tell the musician to do? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'dynamic map' of a storm. Use wavy lines to show a crescendo (getting louder as the storm approaches) and dotted lines to show a decrescendo (getting quieter as the rain stops). Label your drawing with the correct Italian terms.



Extension challenge: Compose a short rhythmic sequence of four beats using body percussion (claps, taps, or stamps). Perform your sequence once at 'piano' and then repeat it at 'forte'. How does changing the dynamic change the mood of your performance?