

Max's Tempo Treasure Hunt: The Speed of Sound

Get your pulse racing and find your rhythm! Join Max the Monkey as we explore the heartbeat of music.

■ **Tempo** is the speed of the underlying pulse in music. Just like a clock, a steady tempo keeps all the instruments playing together in harmony.

■ **Adagio** means a slow, relaxed tempo. Imagine a sleepy sloth moving through the trees; that is the feeling of Adagio.

■ **Moderato** is a medium, moderate speed. It is often described as a comfortable walking pace.

■ **Allegro** is a fast, lively, and bright tempo. It makes you want to skip or dance with energy!

■ **Presto** is a very fast, rapid tempo. It is as quick as a cheetah dashing across the savannah.

■ **Changing the tempo of a familiar tune can completely transform its 'character'.** A slow lullaby played at a Presto speed would sound frantic and silly!

Did you know? Did you know? Composers use Italian terms to tell musicians how fast to play. A 'metronome' is a clever device that clicks at a steady speed to help musicians keep their tempo perfect. If you were counting your own heartbeat while resting, it would be roughly 60 to 100 beats per minute—which is a perfect 'Moderato' tempo!

Key vocabulary: Tempo · BPM (Beats Per Minute) · Adagio · Moderato · Allegro · Presto · Pulse