

MUSIC TERMS GLOSSARY 1



Strategy:

Music terms or words are very important to the singer or musician. Sometimes the words are written in the Italian language.

Music terms tell us what to do when reading music or give us directions for where to go next.

1. Read the following terms and definitions.
2. Try to memorize as many as you can.
3. Use this chart for your next few lessons. Notice the chart is in alphabetical order.

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accelerando (accel.): gradually get faster	countermelody: a 2nd melody played or sung at the same time as the main melody
accidental: a note with a sharp or flat sign written within the music in addition to the key signature	crescendo (cresc.): gradually get louder
arpeggio: the notes of a chord played separately one at a time rather than all together	da capo (D.C.): go back to the beginning of the song
articulation: tonguing, bowing, or saying words so that all notes sound clear, clean and distinct	dal segno (D.S.): go back to the sign 
a tempo: play or sing at the original speed of the song	diminuendo (dim.): gradually get softer
chord: 3 or more notes played all together at the same time	dynamics: variations of loud and soft indicated by letters f & p
chromatic: tones or notes which move in half steps	fine: end of a song
coda: a special ending section added to the end of a song 	1st & 2nd ending: repeat the 1st section again, then skip ending 1, play ending 2 instead