

Music Words/Vocabulary

Included in this set of flashcards are music words for Grades One, Two, and Three. Choose the ones for your classroom/grade.

See also:

(Grade One and the first part of Grade Two commonly use rhythm symbols and their names.

Note and Rest Name
Rhythm Symbols
Staff Lines and Spaces
ABC's

A series of lesson focusing on learning music vocabulary begins in January of CanDo Music 2 (page 146).

Music Words, Words, Words!

When children are young, they soak up words like sponges. Studies have shown that this is the peak period in human development for language learning. Using the "music words" while teaching will help to solidify their place in your student's vocabulary and ease their future learning in music.

General Vocabulary Words Used in Music

audience	move
band	music
changing	orchestra
conductor	perform
create	sing
ending	smooth
instrument	soft
introduction	sound
listen	strong
loud	unison
mood	

Specialized Music Words Used While Teaching

duration	blues
ostinato	big band music
dynamics	jazz
timbre	
phrase	soundscapes
interlude	
andante	accompaniment
presto	
allegro	sharp/flat
solfa	mezzo
downward	call/response
upward	accent
texture/harmony	treble clef
form	
articulation	
slur	
tie	

Introduction of Music Words in this curriculum

1

choir	alphabet
detached	bar
folk song	bar line
forte	beat
melody	compose
melody map	note
percussion	piano
play	pitch
protest song	rest
tempo	rhythm
verse	staff
	tune

2

accent	lullaby
allegro	note names
andante	ostinato
Blues	presto
dynamics	slur
form	solfa
harmony	timbre

3

articulation
canons
flat
partner songs
repeats
rounds
sharp
step, skip, leap
tie
vivace

Music Vocabulary

Language is most easily learned in context ---but specialized music words for many students are only heard, read or said maybe **once a week in school!**

Classroom teachers could also include a few music words in weekly spelling lists.

Using the word cards as a warm-up game is a way to help students become familiar with them. If there is room in the music bulletin board space, consider adding the word cards for a time.

Students may be familiar with the word cards from CanDo1 or CanDo 2.

For more detailed information for re-enforcing music vocabulary see Can Do 2 - January Lessons.



vocabulary lists on next pages

Word Flashcard Games

Before the class gathers, put the word cards in the pocket chart, music word hidden (meaning facing out). **"Today we're going to have a contest. If you can tell me the music word that goes with one of these cards, then the class gets a point. If you miss, then I get a point. However, if you miss and anyone in the class groans or complains, then I get two points! Ready? ..."**

Name a student who chooses a card, reads it, and says the matching word. If the match is made correctly, then the card is turned over. Once all the cards have been turned over, the game may continue by reading the music word and saying the matching idea(harder).

Game may also be played by simply holding the flashcards and going through them one by one.

Variations for the Game

- A** Using the class list, ask each student in turn.
- B** When the words are well known, instead of showing the card, say the word and students spell it, and then also give its explanation.
- C** Name a kind of element. Students give one of the words that fits the category. (Do this at first with all the words mixed up but visible on the pocket chart.) Place the cards under the name on the pocket chart so that all students see the correct groupings.
- D** Show or name one of the words. Student names the element it belongs to.

tempo

speed

staccato

hopping

dynamics

volume



vocabulary lists on next pages

The back of each flashcard has a memory aid to the word's meaning.

Music Words, quick reminders

General Music Words

conductor	music leader
repertoire	list of songs
ostinato	word patterns that repeat
pitch	high/low of sounds
solfa	do, re, mi's
harmony	sound layers
composer	song writer

Written Music Words

music staff	5 lines for writing music
notes	symbols for musical sounds
bars	groups of notes on a staff
bar lines	line to divide groups of notes
slur	2 notes sung together

*Element: Duration

beat	steady pulse
rhythm	long/short word patterns

Musical Elements

* timbre	kind of voice instrument (names of instruments)
* tempo	speed
presto	quickly
allegro	lively
andante	stately
* form	way music is built
chorus	song words that repeat
verse	song words that change
* dynamics	volume
forte	loudly
piano	softly
f	forte
p	piano
staccato	hopping
legato	smoothly
accent	make stronger

Music Words, quick reminders

conductor
compose
repertoire

PITCH(a conceptualization of the high/lows of sounds)
melody, tune
downwards, upwards(direction of pitch)
solfa(the phonics of singing)
high, low(as in to the ceiling/floor)
note: in music,
"higher" does NOT refer to speed or volume!
sharp, flat(pitch a bit too high/low)
step, skip, leap(spaces between pitches)

DYNAMICS(expression)
piano(softly)
forte(loudly)
mezzo(medium)
double(twice as ...)
crescendo(getting louder)
decrescendo(getting softer)
legato(smoothly)
staccato(detached)
articulation(how)
accent(emphasize)
mood(emotion, feeling)

GENRE
folk
children's
lullaby
teaching
Blues
jazz
Big Band
classical
rock rock 'n roll
protest song
spirituals
special occasion

DURATION
beat(pulse, steady)
rhythm(way words go)
ostinato(rhythm pattern)
tempo(speed)
andante(stately)
allegro(lively)
vivace(spritely)
presto(very quickly)
slur
(2 different pitches sung smoothly)
tie(2 notes sung as one total)

FORM(way music is built)
call/response(question-answer)
verse/chorus(different ideas punctuated by a repeated idea)
phrase(approx one breath's worth of singing, like a sentence)
section(several phrases, like a paragraph)
introduction
interlude(short musical passage that connects two different parts of a song)
ending



TEXTURE(layers in music, focusing here on vocal)
melody, tune(notes linked together)
harmony(notes of different pitches, performed at same time)
bordun("drone" "so-mi")
chord(3 or more notes played together)
unison(one note sounded at a time)
canons(a variation of the melody is played some time after the beginning, at the same time as the original melody continues)
rounds(canon where the second playing of the melody exactly repeats the first)
partner songs(two different songs that may be sung together harmoniously)

TIMBRE
voice
instrument
percussion(strike, scrape, rub)
brass(blow directly, buzz)
woodwind(blow into a reed)
strings(pluck, bow, scrape, strum)
accompaniment
orchestra(all instruments)
band
(and other musical instruments as introduced)

MUSIC LITERACY
staff(5 lines for writing music)
bar(group of notes on a staff)
bar line(divides bars)
notes and rests(tell length of sounds)
treble clef(or G clef, higher pitches)
music alphabet(A B C D E F G A B ...)

Dynamics

(volume)

double forte	<i>ff</i>		
forte	<i>f</i>	decrescendo	crescendo
mezzoforte	<i>mf</i>	getting softer	getting louder
mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>		
piano	<i>p</i>		
double piano	<i>pp</i>		

Music words often come from Italian.

Forte = loudly, Mezzo = medium, Piano = softly

Articulation

(manner of singing)

staccato
(choppily)

●
above or
below note

legato
(smoothly)


or "legato"

If you, or the students are new to these musical terms, not to worry ---more review/learning practise through September-October.

conductor

repertoire

ostinato

pitch

solfa

harmony

music leader

list of songs I know

word patterns

high/low of sounds

do re mi's

sound layers

composer

music staff

notes

bars

bar lines

slur

music writer

5 lines for writing music

symbols for music sounds

groups of notes

lines to divide
groups of notes

2 notes gliding together

beat

rhythm

timbre

tempo

presto

allegro

steady pulse

long 'n short patterns

kind of voice/instrument

speed

quickly

lively

andante

form

chorus

verse

dynamics

forte

stately slowly

way music is built

a repeated part of song

story part of song

music volume

loudly

piano

f

p

staccato

legato

accent

softly quietly

forte = loudly

piano = softly

short hopping

smoothly

make stronger

mezzo forte

pentatonic

percussion

orchestra

band

choir

mf medium loudly

5 note scale
do, re, mi, si, la

sounds made by
striking, shaking, tapping

group of instruments
usually includes violin family

group of instruments

group of singers

