

What the conductor just said

Rehearsal language, and the Italian on the part, in plain English.

IN THE REHEARSAL

They say	They mean
From letter D	Start at rehearsal letter D, on its first beat
Two before 12	Start two bars before rehearsal figure 12
From the upbeat to C	Start on the last beat of the bar before C
Second time bar	The bar played only on the repeat, marked 2.
From the double bar	From the nearest double bar line before where you are
Just the tutti	Only the passage where everyone plays
Once more from the top	From the beginning of the movement
No repeat	Ignore the repeat signs
Vi-de, cut to the coda	Skip from the first mark to the second; mark both
Sit on it	Hold that note or chord longer than written; watch for the cut-off

ON THE PART

a tempo: back to the previous speed	accel.: gradually faster	rall. / rit.: gradually slower	riten.: slower at once
meno mosso: less motion: slower	più mosso: more motion: faster	l'istesso tempo: same speed, new metre	stringendo: tightening, pressing on
sub.: suddenly	poco a poco: little by little	tenuto: held for full value	marcato: marked, accented
sostenuto: sustained	dolce: sweetly	pesante: heavy	morendo: dying away
tutti: everyone	soli: the section alone	tacet: you do not play	a2: both players
div. / unis.: divide / together	pizz. / arco: plucked / bowed	sul pont. / sul tast: near the bridge / over the fingerboard	col legno: with the wood of the bow

TEMPO WORDS, ROUGHLY, IN BEATS PER MINUTE

Grave 25 to 45	Largo 40 to 60	Adagio 66 to 76	Andante 76 to 108
Moderato 108 to 120	Allegretto 112 to 120	Allegro 120 to 156	Vivace 156 to 176
Presto 168 to 200	Prestissimo 200 and above		

The ranges overlap because composers, editions and conductors disagree. The conductor's tempo is the tempo.

