

Dynamics

The word “dynamic” in regular language means “changing”, and the Greek root δύναμις *dúnamis*, means “power”.

In music dynamics are how **loud** or soft to play...or how much power to apply.

Dynamic symbols are abbreviations of Italian words, some of which are similar to Spanish words that you might know.


Symbol	Name	Meaning
<i>ppp</i>	pianississimo	as soft as you can play
<i>pp</i>	pianissimo	very soft
<i>p</i>	piano	soft
<i>mp</i>	mezzopiano	medium soft
<i>mf</i>	mezzoforte	medium loud
<i>f</i>	forte	loud (or strong)
<i>ff</i>	fortissimo	very loud
<i>fff</i>	fortississimo	as loud as you can play

In addition to the abbreviation symbols, there are also *crescendos*, written as

cresc. . . or 

This tells you to gradually get **louder**

and *decrescendos* or *diminuendos*, written as

decresc. . . or *dim.* . . or 

This tells you to gradually get **Softer**

These words also come from Italian and Latin, with “crescere” originally meaning “to grow”, and “diminuendo” corresponding to English “diminish”