



Building Blocks of Music

Dynamics

Q&A Discussion Guide

QUESTIONS

1. In music, what do dynamics tell us?
2. What does fortissimo mean?
3. What music word means soft?
4. Name a place where it is usually quiet.
5. What word describes volume that is not loud or soft, but somewhere in between?
6. In the video, sforzando was demonstrated using what sound?
7. What is a crescendo?
8. Finish this sentence: Dynamics help music...
9. Which dynamic marking would best describe a loud elephant blast?
10. What music word means very, very soft?

ANSWERS & TEACHER GUIDE

1. Dynamics tell us how loud or soft music should be performed.
2. Fortissimo means very loud.
3. Piano means soft.
4. A library is one example. Answers may vary.
5. Mezzo means medium or moderate.
6. A cymbal crash, a suddenly loud or strong accent.
7. A crescendo means to gradually get louder.
8. Come alive! Other answers such as become more exciting, gentle, expressive, or dramatic are also acceptable.
9. Forte (f) loud.
10. Pianissimo (pp) very soft.

TEACHER NOTE

Encourage students to demonstrate different dynamics with their voices, clapping, or classroom instruments. Questions 4 and 8 are open-ended and can have many correct answers.

