

Spelling list: Elements of Music

These words help us to describe specific features of different pieces of music.

pitch	The pitch of a note is how high or low it is.
major	Music in a major key sounds bright and happy.
minor	Music in a minor key sounds dull or sad.
ascending	A melody that is ascending is going up in pitch.
descending	A descending melody is going down in pitch (getting lower).
conjunct	A conjunct melody moves through notes that are next door to each other, such as A, B, C.
disjunct	A disjunct melody has big jumps in it, from C to G for example.
duration	Duration is the number of beats that individual notes are worth.
tempo	The tempo of a piece of music is how fast it goes, often measured in beats per minute..
timbre	Timbre is the specific sound made by different instruments or voices.
structure	Structure refers to how a piece of music uses different sections in various orders.
dynamics	In music, dynamics mean how loud or quiet the music is.
metre	The metre of a piece of music is how many beats it has in a bar.
texture	Texture in music describes how many different sounds you have and how they work together.