



You need to be able to identify the following musical signs and symbols in order to complete the White Level of *Voice for Life*.


Dynamics

These symbols tell you how loud or soft to sing. They relate to Italian musical terms.

Symbol	Italian term	Meaning
<i>pp</i>	Pianissimo	Very soft
<i>p</i>	Piano	Soft
<i>mp</i>	Mezzo piano	Quite soft
<i>mf</i>	Mezzo forte	Quite loud
<i>f</i>	Forte	Loud
<i>ff</i>	Fortissimo	Very loud
	Crescendo	Getting louder
	Diminuendo	Getting softer

1. Look at a piece that you have recently sung. How many dynamic markings can you identify? Which is the softest? Which is the loudest?

Pauses

The following sign is known as a pause or fermata: 


If you see this sign above a note it means that you should hold this note for as long as your choir director wants. Whenever you see it, watch the conductor and don't move on to the next note too soon!

Breath markings

Singers sometimes write symbols into their music to remind them where to breathe and when to go through without taking a breath. A tick or a comma indicates you should take a breath, whereas a slur between words means go through without taking a breath.

Tick ✓
Comma ,
Slur ~

Here are two other signs that you might sometimes need to mark in your score:

 = watch

V.S. = volti subito (turn page quickly)

2. Circle the **three** breath markings in this verse of the hymn *All for Jesus*. What do they mean?

Write your answers here:

Breath mark 1 means.....

Breath mark 2 means.....

Breath mark 3 means.....

All for Jesus, ✓ thou wilt give us ~
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
none can move us from thy presence ~
while we trust thy love and power.

3. Circle the **four** breath markings in this extract from *Turn thy face from thy sins* by Attwood.

16 *mp*
Turn thy face from my sins, ___ and put out all my mis- deeds. ___

20 *mf*
Make me a clean heart O God, and re - new a right spi - rit with

23 *f* *p* *mf*
-in me, re - new re - new, ___ re -

4. Look at a piece that you have recently sung. Mark a tick or a comma in every place you plan to take a breath. If there are any places where you might expect to take a breath but actually plan to go through, mark in a slur.

Tip: Always keep a pencil handy in rehearsals to write in breath markings and other useful performance directions given to you by your choir director.