

A Practice Guide

The following is a short practice guide for students to decide how to approach a practice session.

Get Ready to Play

- *Assemble your instrument and make sure it is in working order.*
- *Music on a stand or place where you can easily read it with good posture.*
- *Warm up*
 - *Brass and Woodwinds - Long tones on easy notes.*
 - *Percussion - Easy rhythms from slow to fast*
- * Play an easy piece that you have played before.*

Work on new music

- *Look over your assigned lesson material. Decide how you will practice the music. Some Ideas:*
- *Start at the beginning of the assignment and play to the end.*
- *Start with easiest sections*
- *Study and learn anything new (such as fingerings) before you start*
- *Work on the music to improve:*
 - *Notes, Do you know all the note names and how to play them?*
 - *Rhythms. Do you give each note and rest its right length?*
 - *Tone Quality. Is your sound pleasing and at the right volume?*

**Counting. Can you count and clap all assigned music?*

**Evaluate how you are doing.*

**Did you get better?*

**What still needs to be worked on?*

Review and ending practice

**Look back over the new pieces you practiced.*

**Review anything that you had trouble with such as notes or rhythms.*

**Play another piece that you enjoy.*

**Care for reeds, valves, music, mouthpieces, sticks, etc so you will be ready to play again next time.*

**Put your instrument and music away.*

**You should practice 20 minutes per day.*

Some other thoughts on practice

**In problem spots, try practicing very short chunks (one or two beats), then put two chunks together.*

**Try practicing from the end: Last 8 measures, then last 16, than last 32.*

**Try fingering the music without the instrument, then with the instrument*

**Practice hard spots four times as often as the easy ones.*