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# Practice Tips



Schedule your practice time. Creating a consistent practice routine will help you successfully complete regular practicing each week.

- Determine how many days/week you will practice and which days work best.
- Determine how long you plan to practice each day and plot out the timeframes.
- Fill in a Practice Log/Chart to track your practicing. Over time you will find which days/times work best.



Make a list of what you need to practice and assign each item a timeframe. Once that time is up close that exercise and move onto the next—you can always come back to an exercise at the end if you determine you need to focus more on a specific exercise/concept.

- Warm Ups—5 minutes
- Tonguing—2 minutes
- Scales—7 minutes
- Etude—7 minutes
- Repertoire/Duet—10 minutes

The above is just an example of how you might categorize your practice items and assign them individual timeframes. Ask your teacher to help you come up with a practice plan!



Playing vs. Practicing

- Playing:
  - Playing a song or exercise from start to finish multiple times without stopping to fix any mistakes.
  - Playing music that you have already mastered for fun.
  - Creating your own compositions or melodies outside of your assigned materials.
- Practicing:
  - Focusing on areas of weakness such as long tones, scales, challenging measures or sections of a piece.
  - Using practice techniques to isolate a problem and create a solution.
    - Ask your private instructor for practice techniques—they have TONS to offer you.



It is so much fun to play our instruments but only when we first take the time to practice! Be sure you are practicing first and playing second so that you can build your skills and continually learn to play challenging music through dedicated practice.