

Objective: Tongue

Tonguing is the word for using the tongue to separate notes when playing a woodwind instrument. Here's how to get started:

1. First imagine you were going to say the word dog and practise saying d d d d, (remember **d** for **dog** not the letter D).
2. Then put the flute to your face, get your mouth in position as if you were going to play, and practise saying d d d d with the flute in place.
3. Try that same thing but with no sound, just making the same movements with your tongue.
4. Take a big breath and practise blowing out slowly without the flute while you say d d d d.
5. Take a big breath and practise blowing out slowly again, this time making that same tongue movement with no sound.
6. Then put the flute to your face, get your mouth into position, and try doing that with the flute in place; practise that.
7. You may find this takes a bit of getting used to, so practise each day until you feel confident; go back and repeat the instructions above until you can do it.
8. Aim for a four beat note divided into four one beat notes with the tongue; you may struggle to do this at first but the more you practise the easier it will get.



d d d d

9. For an added challenge, once you have mastered the technique, you could practice changing between two or three notes while tonguing.
10. If you have Funky Flute, there are several pieces that enable you to practise your tonguing with a backing track. Try the ones on pages 10 and 11.
11. If you are in contact with a friend learning an instrument, you could try demonstrating tonguing to each other over the phone.
12. Demonstrate your tonguing to an adult in your house and tick off on your Red Award card. Congratulations, you can now tongue!