

Top tips for practising check list:

1. Play little and often.
2. Find a place to practise away from other people/distractions.
3. Leave your instrument out in a safe place so that you can just pick it up and play whenever you feel like it.
4. Always warm up before playing your pieces.
5. Always have a pencil with you to write pointers on your pieces.
6. Clap difficult rhythm patterns before you play them.
7. Play through difficult bars before you play the whole piece.
8. Play difficult bars again if you still didn't get them right when playing your piece - 5-10 times.
9. Check that you are playing a piece correctly by listening to it played (on a CD if you have one or by your teacher).
10. Have definite goals to work for and keep a practice diary so you can see how you are doing.
11. Record yourself playing and listen back to the recording. Work out what went well and what may need improving.
12. Spend some time listening to your instrument being played professionally. Ask your teacher for some ideas.
13. If you are really not in the mood to play, don't! Come back to it tomorrow. We all have off days!
14. Play as much as possible with other people - this will improve your playing.
15. Work hard to improve but above all else make playing fun!