



Practice Guide - Strings

- What is practice?
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 - What do we practice?
- 

What is practice?



Practice is when we gradually work on, and help improve, our instrumental playing.



It is a process that is different for everyone, but the main thing is finding out what best helps you progress and learn.



Practice helps all levels of musicians, from absolute beginners to advanced players.

Why do we practice?

- **The process of practicing builds up our skills, helping us face challenges in music.**

A challenge might be a bar with a tricky rhythm, or a new finger pattern.

- **It takes time, but every effort we make, shows in our playing.**

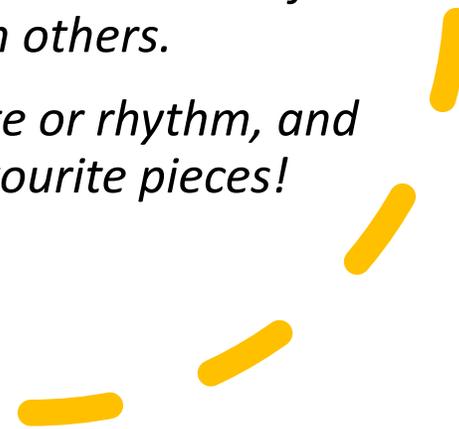
Think about when you have listened carefully and noticed an improvement.

Your teacher can tell and guide you when your playing has improved.

- **Practicing is a journey to be enjoyed!**

It can be fun to discover when a challenge has become easier for us, and even more fun to be able to share it with others.

Think about when you have practiced a new note or rhythm, and then been able to enjoy learning one of your favourite pieces!



How do we practice?

- **Break things up into small chunks.**

Remember it is a process. You can't master everything at once. A 5 minute practice can really help.

- **Work slowly and step by step.**

Your teacher might guide you to try a certain part of the music very slowly, before you try it at full speed.

- **Focus on one thing at a time.**

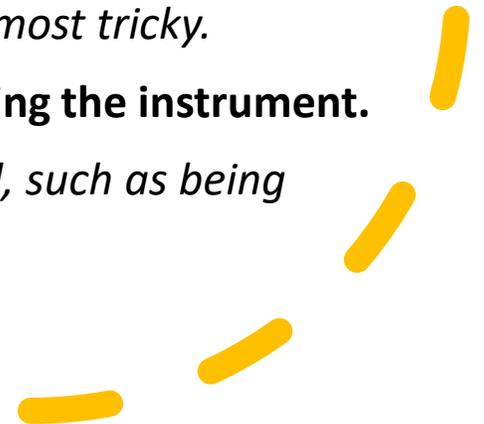
If there are a few things in the music that are difficult, you might firstly work on just the rhythm. Clapping the rhythm, before you even pick up your instrument, can help.

- **You don't have to start practicing at the beginning of the piece.**

You might start by working on the part that you find most tricky.

- **Thinking and listening is just as important as playing the instrument.**

Can you recognise when you have got better at a skill, such as being able to play a different note value.





What do we practice?

- **It can be easy to keep playing pieces that we can already play, but practice is about challenging ourselves and gradually learning.**

Your teacher will be able to help you find the right piece of music that is not too difficult and not too easy.

- **You can practice more than the music.**

Your teacher might ask you to practice a certain note or rhythm, a new scale that you are learning, or how to hold your bow.

To finish

- **So, practice is something that helps any level of musician improve, and get more comfortable with their playing.**

When could you fit in a few minutes to practice your music skills?

Most of all, enjoy the process of learning and making music!

