



Dr. Faske's Trombone Practice Tips
Questions? Email bfaske@astate.edu. I always reply!

Have the right tools for the job, and make sure they work!

If you don't have to change the batteries in your metronome and tuner regularly, you should use them more often. 😊

MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!! If you use a smart phone or tablet to help you practice, put it on Airplane Mode.

Learn the meaning of every word and marking on the page. Don't guess – Google it!

Don't always start playing at the beginning.

Record yourself to know what you sound like to other people's ears. I promise that it's different!

If you want to get better, challenge yourself to play with players who are better than you.

When you go to sleep tonight, someone is staying up late to practice.

When it comes to music, the turtle will always win the race. Start slow, stay steady, and enjoy the journey!

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I. Set Your Goals

- a. Know what you need to practice for the audition.
- b. Collect the music early and put it all in a binder.

II. Gather Your Practice Tools – they only work if you use them!

- a. Music Stand
- b. Metronome
- c. Tuner
- d. Pencil
- e. Recording Device – use your smart phone, on Airplane Mode!

III. Get to Work!

- a. Know what every word means on every page (Google it!)
- b. Record the very first time you play through the music.
- c. Listen back to the recording with your music and a pencil, and mark your mistakes.
- d. Each area you mark deserves practice attention!
 - i. Accuracy is more important than speed. Go slow enough to make sure you are playing correct rhythms and pitches.
 - ii. Only after the elements above are in place do you speed it up
 - iii. Only after it is sped up do you plug it back into the music and try again
- b. Record yourself a second time after the spots are worked out. Listen back and enjoy the improvement!

IV. From Practice To Performance

- a. At some point, you have to dial back the practicing and dial up the performing.
- b. Play for anyone who will listen (doesn't have to be a musician every time)
- c. "Perform" the piece from the beginning, from halfway through, and from any logical starting point. Don't Always start at the beginning!

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