

SMARTMUSIC PRACTICE TIPS:

1. Practice each exercise daily over the course of the whole week. In other words, working on an exercise for 5-10 minutes throughout the week is better than trying to master it in one day. Long-term results will be better.
2. Practice sheet music (the concert pieces) in sections. Remember to create practice loops on the sections that are most challenging for you.
3. If an assignment is due in several weeks, work on it regularly until the due date. Don't wait until 2 or 3 days before it is due.
4. If you don't know a fingering, click on the note!
5. Observe what the issue is with each red note:
6. If the red note appears to the left of the note, you are playing too early; To the right of the note, you are late
7. If the red note is above or below the note, you are playing too high or low, and you may not be doing the correct fingering. Brass players, make sure you are on the correct partial.
8. If the red notes are one note too high, with a lot of flat signs, you may need to pull out. One note lower may indicate needing to push in. Use the tuner.
9. If you are having trouble keeping a steady beat, use the drop down tab to turn the click on throughout the exercise/piece.

Method Book Exercises:

1. Play through the exercise with the assigned settings.
2. If you have trouble with it, slow the tempo down to a more comfortable speed. Smartmusic will say that you cannot submit the assignment because you changed the settings. That's ok. Just click practice until you are more comfortable with it. Then reset it.
3. Gradually increase the tempo until you are comfortable with it. You might not get it up to speed until you have worked on it for an entire week. Be patient.
4. Look at the red and green notes. Practice the measures or notes that you got wrong over and over again before pressing the "Play" button again.
5. Don't just play the whole exercise over and over again from start to finish. Find out what you are doing wrong and try to practice it correctly.
6. Play through the whole exercise only after you have mastered each measure.
7. If you work on the assignments throughout the week you should see your scores increasing. If you are really struggling with an exercise on Wednesday or Thursday, you can submit the assignment AND e-mail your band director to let us know that you are struggling with it. We can give you advice on why you are struggling with it and reassign it to you. Let us know during group lessons if you need specific help with a certain exercise.

Concert Music/Sheet Music:

1. Smartmusic may have pre-made assignments that help you work on the difficult parts. Work on these before trying to tackle the whole piece. (The title of the assignment would be the title of the piece and "Assignment 1" etc.
2. Run through the whole piece and figure out which parts need the most work.
3. Create practice loops on each section that is most challenging for you.
4. Slow down the tempo if necessary
5. Be patient. Playing through the whole piece perfectly takes time. You should practice the challenging parts **daily over the course of several weeks** before you can play through the whole thing.