

Five Steps to Perfect Practice

In other words, this is how you truly learn how to play difficult passages

1. **CHOP IT UP**: pick a manageable size section of music. If it feels overwhelming, make it smaller.
2. **SAY THE RHYTHMS OUT LOUD**: use whatever syllables you are comfortable with. Understand which notes are long and which are short.
3. **SAY THE LETTER NAMES, IN RHYTHM AND OUT LOUD**: this solidifies the rhythm and pitch in your mind. Music reading skills are often the reason music is played incorrectly.
4. **FAKE PLAY**: say the letter names, in rhythm, out loud, while pretending to play your instrument with your hands/fingers.
5. **REAL PLAY**: Actually play your instrument, but “fake play” it in your head as you play! This helps you to concentrate and get it right.

Repeat these steps for each section of music you are learning.

BONUS: try to get each section right 4 or 5 times IN A ROW before moving to another section of music!