

Beginner Video 5 - Recap of 1-4 with New Tips

1. Private instruction is recommended.
2. Mouthpiece Resonating (buzzing) is easiest before assembly
 - A. Blow air through mouthpiece without buzzing as if blowing out a candle. Feel air hit your hand, see it move paper, or see it move a pinwheel. Let the air flow rather than forcing it.
 - B. Try the same while buzzing. Let the air flow, rather than choking it off. Feel evidence of the air on your hand, or move a paper or pinwheel. It may help to cover a portion of the back of the mouthpiece with a finger (the pinky of the hand holding it sometimes works).
 - C. Buzzing is not the same as playing the horn, so don't worry if you have trouble with it at first. Playing may actually feel easier because the trombone makes the buzz more "automatic" so just blow the horn without pressing, squeezing, or forcing the lips together. See 3:15 of Beginner Video 5.
3. Assembly
 - A. Case position: bell usually to left, thicker part of the case usually on bottom, to avoid causing parts to fall and crash when opening. Slide should be locked if it was when last put away.
 - B. Remove slide first, anchor pin to the ground. Bell comes second, goes on longer tube in L position (90 degrees) and screws onto the slide. Finally, mouthpiece goes on with a gentle twist. Do not tap the mouthpiece on.
 - C. If you have a stuck mouthpiece, do not use muscle or tools to twist or pull it out. Brass is soft and easily damaged. Ask a band director or repair shop to use a mouthpiece puller.
4. Holding Position - 5:44 of Beginner Video 5.
 - A. Left hand in shape of a gun. 3 fingers go in the box at the top of the slide. Pointer/index finger goes across the mouthpiece and thumb goes around the bar on the bell (by your neck when the horn is held up). This hand must hold all the weight of the instrument. The video shows other options to make it easier.
 - B. Right hand holds and moves the slide cross-bar with 2 fingertips and your thumb.
 - C. With wrists properly straight, your elbows will be the bottom 2 corners of a triangle, and your hands will be the point on top. The trombone will be at a slight tilt toward the left hand, not parallel to the ground.

- D. Good posture means the trombone comes up to you instead of you leaning down to it. Therefore, you should play with the music stand on the right side of your slide so you don't have to peer around the bell to read music.
5. Reading Music
- A. See the beginning of Beginner Video 4 for tips and a free PDF song and try the starter exercises from Video 3 with the free PDF.
 - B. Open Circle = whole note (4 counts);
Open Circle with stem = half note (2 counts);
Filled in dot with stem = quarter note (1 count)
 - C. Bass clef space notes from bottom = All Cows Eat Grass;
Line notes = Great Big Dads Fart A lot
 - D. A keyboard instrument can help you check whether you are on the right note.
6. More Tips
- A. You may see teachers blow the water (condensation) out of their trombones. In case you can't reach to do that, gravity works just as well. Just open the water key and tip the water out.
 - B. Cardboard such as flattened open cereal boxes are a great way to catch the water.
 - C. Higher notes may be aided by cold, fast air, firm corners, sending air to an imaginary candle across the room, and cheeks against the teeth (not puffing).
 - D. Low notes use warm, slow, relaxed air, like fogging a window, and relaxed lips inside the mouthpiece.
 - E. Inhale a yawn breath or swimmer's breath and sigh through the trombone. You won't actually use your voice, but release the air in this relaxed manner. See 11:31 of Beginner Video 5.
 - F. You will use a controlled sigh, one that you slow down to make it last longer, as you whisper "tOOO" for a nice crisp beginning to your notes. See 11:31 of Beginner Video 5.
 - G. Inhale rhythmically through the mouth, 1 or 2 beats before you play.
7. 8:25 of Beginner Video 5 begins the review of the PDF play-along from Beginner Video 3, available at <https://richbegel.com/audio-video/#BeginnerTeaching>
8. 16:17 of Beginner Video 5 begins the review of the PDF play-along from Beginner Video 4, Hot Cross Buns, available at <https://richbegel.com/audio-video/#BeginnerTeaching>