

“How to Take Lessons (& get the most from them)”

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You’ve just had your lesson and received new assignments for the next one in 7 days. What should you do now?

Prepare. You should be working harder than your teacher for your lessons.

Prepare so that you don’t pay someone to tell you what you already know. (key signature, time signature, rhythm, etc.)

Prepare so that you don’t pay someone to tell you what you could have known. In other words, record yourself.

Take notes on the important points of your recording of the lesson or from your memory of the lesson if you were unable to record it.

Always have high standards, trying to achieve that point where there is nothing technical (wrong notes, wrong rhythms) left for your teacher to correct, and only musical suggestions remain. Then, if your teacher does find something to change, it will be new information for you.

At the lesson, were you

On time?

Warmed-up?

Ready with your recorder or tape or CD?

Ready with questions?

Other Points:

“Make a Statement, don’t ask a question.” -Arnold Jacobs

Good advice, even for playing in lessons. Jacobs also said “when the horn comes up, be a storyteller.”

Express the atmosphere that the composer was aiming for. It is as important as playing the right notes, maybe even more important. After all, if one word in a book is smudged, you can still understand the book.

You and your teacher are a team, helping you to become an independent musician. Rather, your teacher is like the coach of the team and you have to do the work, build the muscle, and score the goals.