



REEL EAR WEB APPS

Ear
Training:
Beginners

General tips

Our web app design calls for consistent repetition of the target material as well as small, progressive sequences of tasks that grow more complex as the learner advances.

Since many learners will use the ear training apps on their own, the design incorporates real time feedback in order to guide the student's progress.

Musicians need to be able to hear a piece of music and be able to play it. That's what most musicians spend their time doing, and so that's what they should be practicing. But like pilots, much of that practice has to happen in a controlled environment to optimize learning. And they should be practicing it in a progressive manner, slowly adding more and more levels of complexity to their musical phrases until they reach their goal of being able to listen to a song and simply play it back.

Practice ear training
10-15 minutes everyday

Use the apps to warm up or to practice on days when you don't have a lot of time to play

Practice each new variable at a very slow speed, then gradually increase the speed by 3-5 bpm. You will learn faster and better that way

You want to repeat what you hear with 100% accuracy before changing any variable

Ear training for beginners

Let's go!

Beginners should start with melody or chords, depending on your instrument and your musical focus. Arpeggios should be incorporated later.

1.

First step

Settings: One note/chord, one duration.

Objective: internalize the mechanics of singing/playing that note on your instrument, while reinforcing establishing and maintaining a steady rhythm.

Comments: It is helpful to start very slowly and then gradually increase the metronome speed by 3–5 bpm. Also, it is often a successful strategy that while part of the dictation is sounding, you take your hand off the instrument.

That way you practice moving into the note each time it's your turn to play.

2.

Second step

Settings: One note/chord, more than one duration.

Objective: Internalize different durations while establishing and maintaining a steady rhythm.

Comments: It is helpful to start very slowly and then gradually increase the metronome speed by 3–5 bpm. Also, it is often a successful strategy that while part of the dictation is sounding, you take your hand off the instrument. That way you practice moving into the note each time it's your turn to play. Try different combinations of note durations to complement this learning step.

3.

Third step

Settings: Add a second note/chord.

Objective: Pitch discrimination between two sounds, steady rhythm, starting to increase your mechanical abilities on your instrument/voice.

Comments: Use the visual feedback to verify your pitch discrimination.

Here is what we recommend:

Set the number of play through to 2. Then listen to the dictation in the first play through and try to imitate it when it's your turn. Then, as the dictation plays again in the second play through, look at the visual feedback. Finally, play the dictation again when it's your turn. That is one complete cycle.

As you begin to perceive the different sounds at this level you can stop looking at the visual feedback altogether until you move on to the next combination of sounds.

If you play an instrument that is difficult to produce the note exactly, for example, the violin family, slide trombones, fretless banjos, etc...set the number of play throughs to 3. Then follow the method above, when the third play through of the dictation sounds, you should play along with the app, comparing your notes/ to the app's in real time. Finally on your turn, repeat the dictation one more time by yourself. This is an awesome way to work on your intonation.

Remember

LESS VARIABLES

=

EASIER

MORE VARIABLES

=

HARDER

LESS SPEED

=

EASIER

MORE SPEED

=

HARDER

1000's

students have reached
their ear training goals
already

You got it!

You can improve your musical ear

