

Good Piano Practising Habits

Quick Guide

Nikos Kokkinis

Pianopractising.com

Follow the good habits from the following guide when you are starting a new piece, or while practising it:

1. Make the place of practice a special one¹
2. Settle down before practising²
3. Always warm up starting with scales³
4. Finish warm up with an etude⁴
5. Thoroughly understand the Tempo Marking
6. Observe the Time Signature and feel the tempo⁵
7. Look at the general rhythmical structure and feel the rhythm (Is it a Waltz, March, Polonaise, etc.)
8. Observe the Key Signature & visualise it on the piano keys
9. Scan through the piece and picture its general structure
10. Find what are the main themes/melodic lines of the piece
11. Find the middle of the piece and contemplate how it pianistically reaches there
12. Look at the end of the piece and contemplate how it pianistically reaches there
13. Practise hands separately as much as possible
14. Look at your hands as less as possible, and look more on the music
15. Follow the Rule of Five consistently⁶
16. Use correct fingerings from the very beginning⁷
17. Learn the music accurately from the very beginning⁸
18. Often start practising from a passage other than the beginning of the piece?
19. Decide at the end of practising session what needs to be accomplished next?
20. Dedicate optimal amount of practising to each individual piece⁹
21. Be constantly conscious of how much of the piece is left to learn
22. Calculate how long the rest of the piece is roughly going to take to learn?
23. Do not let the difficulty of a piece overwhelm you¹⁰
24. Practise every single day the right amount of time¹¹
25. Develop good posture habits¹²
26. Dedicate time at the end of practising for sight-reading and free improvisation

¹ Article: Practice Room "Atmosphere" - <https://www.pianopractising.com/practice-room-atmosphere/>

² Article: Our Mood Prior to Practising - <https://www.pianopractising.com/piano-practice-mood/>

³ Article: Slowly Does It, with Scales - Link: <https://www.pianopractising.com/slowly-does-it-with-scales/>

⁴ Article: The Piano Studies - Link: <https://www.pianopractising.com/the-piano-studies/>

⁵ Article: How to Start a Piece on Stage - Link: <https://www.pianopractising.com/how-to-start-a-piece-on-stage/>

⁶ Article: The Rule of Five - <https://www.pianopractising.com/the-rule-of-five/>

⁷ Article: Approaching Fingerings - <https://www.pianopractising.com/piano-fingerings/>

⁸ Article: Why It Is Hard to Unlearn a Passage - <https://www.pianopractising.com/why-it-is-hard-to-unlearn-a-passage/>

⁹ Article: Which Pieces to Practise Daily - <https://www.pianopractising.com/which-pieces-to-practise-daily/>

¹⁰ Article: Pianist's Block: How to Overcome It and Keep Practicing More Constructively - <https://www.pianopractising.com/915-2/>

¹¹ Article: How Much Should You Practise? - <https://www.pianopractising.com/how-much-should-you-practise/>

¹² Article: Sitting at the Piano - <https://www.pianopractising.com/sitting-at-the-piano/>