

Hey, Kids! Here's How to Practice

by Mark Mercury

Do you want to make your music easier and faster to learn? Try practicing this way:

LEARN ONLY ONE MEASURE AT A TIME, HANDS SEPARATELY THEN HANDS TOGETHER.

First you practice the first measure until you can play it very comfortably (hands separately then hands together). Then you practice the second measure until you can play it comfortably (hands separately then hands together). Then you practice the first and second measures together until you can play both of them very comfortably. Keep adding measures, one at a time, until you reach the end of the piece.

Each time you practice a measure, do it two ways:

1. Memorize the music in the measure and play it while you watch your hands. (Hands separately, then hands together, of course!)
2. Play it while keeping your eyes on the page. (Hands separately, then hands together.)

Make sure you ALWAYS use the fingering that's written in your music book. CORRECT FINGERING is VERY IMPORTANT. If there is no fingering in your music book, ask your teacher to write it in for you.