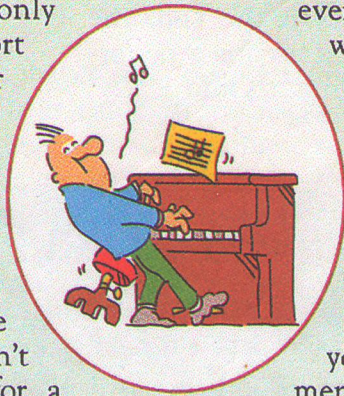


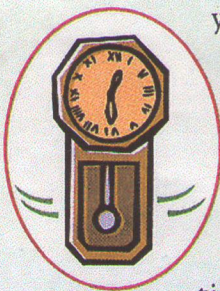
# Get the Most Out of Your Piano Lessons

**B**ecause you only have a short time with your teacher each week, it is important to be ready and take advantage of every minute.



1. Warm up before the lesson. You don't have to practice for a long time, but it is a good idea to warm up for 5 to 10 minutes. It not only gets the fingers ready but also mentally prepares you for the lesson. It is sometimes hard to focus on piano if you come directly from school or another activity.

2. Plan to arrive about five minutes before the lesson is scheduled to start. If you travel a long distance, leave a few minutes early in case there is traffic. Showing up on time gives you as much time as possible with your teacher. It also shows respect for your teacher.



3. Be prepared for your lesson. Ideally, you should practice

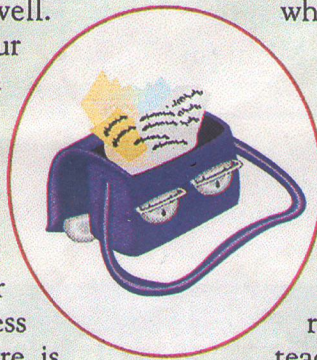
every day and learn the whole assignment. Sometimes, if it is a busy week, you may not have enough time. (If possible tell your teacher in advance that you have a busy week, and she may give you a shorter assignment.) When you are

busy, try to practice at least a little each day, and make sure that you cover some of the assignment very well. For example, your teacher has asked you to learn the first two sections of a piece, but you have three tests and a paper due for school, a soccer game, and a chess tournament. If there is not time to learn both sections, learn just the first one very well, remembering to put in articulations and dynamics. This is better than spending a little time on everything and learning nothing very well.

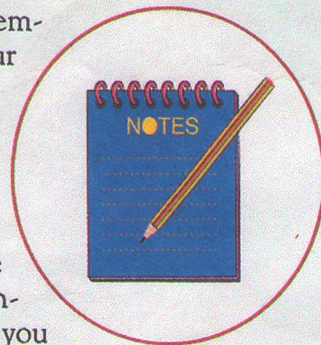
4. Remember to bring your music, a notebook to write your assignment in, a pencil, and anything else your teacher requests. It may help to have a

bag specifically for piano gear and pack it the morning of your lesson. Write down the directions from the teacher, so you can remember what to practice.

5. At your lesson listen quietly while your teacher talks and don't daydream. Look carefully at your teacher's hands when she demonstrates difficult passages. Try to understand what she wants you to do differently. If you do not understand, ask questions, but think about what she is saying first.



6. When you get home, read the assignment in your notebook. Is it clear? Add any extra comments about things you should work on. It is easy to remember what your teacher said now, but in two days you will probably have forgotten. Another way to remember what your teacher said during the lesson is to practice for just a short while – five to ten minutes – when you get home.



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