How to Practice
Acquiring language, Developing language, and Working on tunes

*This is a supplement to the Jazzadvice presentation "What Should I Practice."
Make sure to review the full presentation. Then, use this diagram to guide your daily practice. Maybe even print it and put it on your wall. Enjoy!

Start here...

Get more language

GET MORE LANGUAGE TO DEVELOP

Hear a phrase you like

OR

Find a line over a specific chord or common chord progression.

TRANSCRIBE IT BY EAR TO MEMORY WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT

1. Listen to it over and over and over an over and over again
2. Put it into Transcribe Software to slow it down
3. Try to sing the phrase and understand what’s happening
4. Once you can sing it, play it on your instrument
5. Get it up to speed on your instrument with the recording
6. Play it without the recording
7. Figure out what chord(s) the phrase is over by ear
8. Play the phrase in all 12 keys
9. If you’re working on a whole solo, then move to the next phrase. Then connect the phrases until you’ve gone through the whole solo and can play it by memory.

THEN...

TAKE THE LANGUAGE YOU LEARN AND

Start here...

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Find at least 3 recordings you love of the tune

APPLY your language to tunes!

Take a piece of language you learned

Create a new line or concept straight from your imagination!

OR

Find a solo you like

GET MORE LANGUAGE TO APPLY TO TUNES!

DEVELOP IT BY...

• Varying and modifying it.
• Extracting parts of it and building on them
• Combining the line with other lines
• Creating new lines from the original
• Understanding the concept behind the line and then improving with the concept in mind
• Creating new concepts similar to the concept behind the original line
• Get creative and MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

Practice a tune

1. Learn the melody straight from the recording
2. Learn the chords straight from the recording

THEN...

OR START HERE...

DEVELOP IT!

Or start here...

Develop language
Find at least 3 recordings you love of the tune
LISTEN to them over and over and over
AND
SING along with the recording

THEN

Develop more
language to apply
to tunes

3. Play the chords at the piano. Understand the harmony. (The Ear Training Method can help you hear better)
4. Visualize the chords. Refer to the Visualization eBook for help.
5. Play basic chord tone exercises in a melodic way
6. Apply language and concepts to parts of the tune
7. Isolate difficult sections and find/study language for them
8. Improvise. Improvise some more. And then improvise even more...
9. To strengthen your understanding of a tune and improve at it, repeat steps 1-8 indefinitely for a lifetime. Find new recordings and try new approaches to the melody, chords, and soloing concept.

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