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

**Start here…**

Get more language

- **LISTEN to your heroes**
  - Hear a phrase you like
  - OR
  - Find a line over a specific chord or common chord progression
  - OR
  - Find a note you like

**Get more language to develop**

- Take a piece of language you learned
  - OR
  - Create a new line or concept STRAIGHT FROM YOUR IMAGINATION!

**Get more language to apply to tunes**

- Develop language
  - 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 working 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**

- Find at least 3 recordings you love of the tune
  - THEN
  - LISTEN to them over and over and over
  - SING along with the recording

**THEN…**

TRANSCRIBE IT BY EAR TO MEMORY WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT:
1. Listen to it over and over and over and 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

**And apply it 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 working with the concept in mind
- Creating new concepts similar to the concept behind the original line
- Get creative and MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

**Develop more language**

- 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 working 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
   (The Ear Training Method can help you hear better)
3. Play the chords all of the time. Understand the harmony
   (Ordinary Jazz Piano Book to help with this step)
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. Improve. Improve. Improve more. And then improve even more.
9. To strengthen your understanding of a tune and improve at it, repeat steps 7 indefinitely for a lifetime. Find new recordings and try new approaches to the melody, chords, and soloing concept