

Template Sentence Extraction Exercise (Process Paragraph/Opinion Paragraph)

Assembling a Saxophone

by Gord Sellar

Although saxophones are complicated, assembling a saxophone is easy if you follow these simple steps. The first step is to get ready to assemble the saxophone. You should first put the neck strap around your neck, and make sure it is secure. When it is secure, attach the hook of the neck strap to the neck strap loop on the back side of the saxophone. This will make it impossible for you to drop the saxophone, while also freeing your hands. The next step is to attach the neck to the saxophone. When you do this, hold the neck carefully, making sure you don't bend the octave key. Unscrew the neck tenon screw, and slide the thick end of the neck into the neck tenon. When the neck is inserted completely, align it so that it's straight and then tighten the neck tenon screw. The neck should not move or rotate after you've tightened the screw. Be careful not to over-tighten this screw, or you can strip the threads! It only needs to be tight enough to prevent the neck from moving freely. The next-to-last step involves attaching the mouthpiece to the saxophone. Carefully pick up the mouthpiece and slide it onto the neck cork. If the mouthpiece doesn't slide on smoothly, apply cork grease to the neck cork first, to make the mouthpiece slide on more smoothly. The final step of the process is attaching the reed to the mouthpiece. Turn to the ligature, which is the small object that holds the reed onto the mouthpiece. Unscrew the ligature screws partway, and slide a wet reed into the mouthpiece. The flat side should be touching the table of the mouthpiece, and the tip of the reed should line up with the tip of the mouthpiece. Tighten the ligature screws again, just tight enough to prevent the reed from moving. If you've followed all of these steps carefully, you will have successfully assembled your saxophone and are ready to start playing it.

Why Every Child Should Learn Music

by Gord Sellar

Because of the many benefits that it offers, every child should learn to play a musical instrument. First, playing music with other people teaches children about teamwork. Not only do children who play music need to work together when they are performing, but they also develop superior listening skills and sensitivity to their surroundings. In fact, music helps students not just to work together, but it helps them to work creatively and harmoniously without any enemy or opponent involved as in team sports. Next, playing an instrument is good for children's mental development. Every musical instrument depends on fine motor skills, whether it involves moving one's fingers, hands, or feet, breathing in time, and keeping a tempo. What's more, most children learn to play an instrument while reading music, which trains their hand-eye coordination and performing precisely timed movements. Additionally, some scientific studies suggest that exposure to music from an early age helps children's language skills and even emotional self-regulation abilities! Finally, learning to play a musical instrument deepens a child's appreciation for art, including music. We encourage children to read literature because we value literacy and feel that there are important lessons to be learned from good books, but this is also true of music. Children who play music are likelier to appreciate a wider variety of types of music, to appreciate the skill and work involved in making music, and to appreciate musical creativity and artistry that is harder to appreciate without training. Some people might argue that musical literacy is not important, but most people who think this are people who are themselves musically illiterate, and therefore have no idea what they're talking about. For all of these reasons, every child should learn to play at least one musical instrument.