

# How to become a great sight-reader

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## **Play lots.**

1. Pick up a fun book from the music store.
2. [imslp.org](http://imslp.org)
3. [www.flutetunes.com](http://www.flutetunes.com)
4. [www.8notes.com](http://www.8notes.com)
5. [www.jennifercluff.com](http://www.jennifercluff.com)

**Play duets** and other ensembles when you get together with friends. See the resources above. Consider Rubank: Selected Duets for Flute (2 volumes).

**Know your notes.** Be able to name and finger any note frequently. Want a fun way to practice? Check out [www.musictheory.net/exercises](http://www.musictheory.net/exercises).

**Know the patterns** (scales, etc.). Read words instead of letters. ([www.flutetunes.com/scales](http://www.flutetunes.com/scales))

## **Look first – Then leap.**

1. Name the key.
  - Play the scale and arpeggio first. Your piece is generally limited to these notes!
  - Identify the most important notes. Circle them. These are anchors as you play.
    - The first note of the scale (key) is called tonic.
    - The fifth note is dominant.
2. Look for tempo (speed) words.
3. Look at the time signature.
4. Look for rhythm patterns. (Can you hear them in your head?)

## **Train your ear.**

1. Practice figuring out songs you know by ear.
2. Learn to improvise.

## **Play things you know in a new way.**

1. Photocopy the piece. Cut it up and rearrange.
2. Play every other measure of the piece without stopping between measures.

3. Roll dice and start in the measure that you rolled.

*Sight reading is not playing something new.  
It's playing something old in a new context.*