

## Can Instruments Make You Smarter?

A Have you ever tried to play an instrument like the piano, guitar, or the recorder? Learning to play an instrument gives you more than something to do when you're bored. Scientists have proven that it even makes you smarter!

B How does learning to play an instrument make you smarter? Your brain is divided into two parts. It has the left side and the right side. In between these two sides is a large, flat pack of fibers that connect both sides. When you learn to play an instrument, this area of fibers in the middle of your brain gets bigger. It helps the left side of your brain talk to the right side of your brain. Then the two sides can work together at the same time. Yes, your brain talks. It sends signals and clues to different parts of your brain and to your body.

C Your brain is not the only thing that gets bigger and improves when you learn to play music. Learning an instrument helps the part of the brain that controls motor skills. Motor skills help you hold a pencil or reach to catch a ball. So, as you learn to play an instrument, your talent in catching a ball also grows.

D After just a few months of practicing your instrument, your memory is better too. This helps you to remember your music lessons more easily. You can also remember more of what you learn in school. Practicing your instrument helps you understand sounds in big words faster, too.

E Guess what? You do not have to play a special instrument to get smarter. You can learn to play any instrument you like. Piano, drums, flutes, and violins all make beautiful sounds. Pick the one you like the most. Then remember to practice every week in order to grow smarter!

RI.3.2


1. Write one WORD that describes the main idea of the text: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write a sentence that tells the main idea of the text.

Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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\_\_\_\_\_

3.  Color in a key detail that supports the main idea of the text. Explain in your own words how this detail supports the main idea.

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4.  Color in a key detail that supports the main idea of the text. Explain in your own words how this detail supports the main idea.

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RI.3.0

5. Write one WORD to summarize the following paragraphs:

B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_ E. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Summarize how playing an instrument can make you smarter.

Complete Sentences	Cite the Evidence	Restate the Question
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RI.3.2

7. Write three questions where the answer could be found in the text. Then find the answer to your question and color it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question 

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Color the answer to your question 

3. \_\_\_\_\_


Color the answer to your question 

RI.3.4

8. Find the underlined words, motor skills in the text. Use the context clues to explain what this word means. Circle the words in the text that are a clue to the meaning of the word.

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\_\_\_\_\_

RI.3.6

9.  Color the sentences in the text where the author shares their opinion or point of view how learning an instrument can make you smarter.

10. Describe the author's point of view.

11. What is your opinion, or point of view about whether or not learning to play an instrument can make you smarter?

12. How is your point of view different or the same as the author's point of view?