

- When you start with the tongue on the reed and blow there will not be sound. It is the separation of the tongue from the reed due to the blowing out of the air that causes the “ta” sound.

- How will you know if you are tonguing incorrectly? If your tongue is not on the reed before blowing air through you will hear “ah-ta”. The “ah” is the inhalation sound that comes from breathing in before placing your tongue on the reed.

-Remember, it is the explosive sound of the air being released from the reed that gives the “ta” sound.



-And remember to always have your tongue on the reed before you breath to eliminate the “ah” sound and always have the “ta” sound.

3-Now put your instrument together and let’s practice tonguing on an open G. Place your tongue on the reed, breath in and “ta” on G. Practice this several times.

4-Next challenge yourself to play multiple “ta’s” on an open G in one breath. It is okay if you can’t do this yet as it takes time. Consider it a goal to work towards as you practice.

Keep in mind that it takes some patience to get the hang of tonguing. If you lose your sound, which is common, try playing a tone and stopping the sound with the tongue. Try to keep your embouchure steady when you are tonguing and don’t stop the air.

Musical Exercises to Practice Tonguing:

Let’s continue practicing our tonguing using exercise #45 *Eighth Note Encounter* below. Notice that the music includes quarter notes  and paired eighth notes . The first two pitches you know are quarter notes. The other two pitches connected by the horizontal beam are two eighth notes. There are many ways to think about these rhythms, but let’s use the syllables “ta” and “ti-ti” because they help you think about what the rhythm sounds like *before* you play. Follow the “speak it, tongue it, play it” directions below for this exercise.

#45 EIGHTH NOTE ENCONTER

Tongue each note on the reed



Counting: ta ta ti - ti ta ta ta ti - ti ta ta ta ti - ti ta ta ta ti - ti ta

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- **Speak it:** use the “ta” or “ti-ti” syllables and pay attention to how your tongue moves inside your mouth as you say each syllable. **This is important.** You should notice that each syllable is **separated** when the tip of your tongue quickly taps the top of your mouth right behind your two front teeth.
- **Tongue it:** Now take your clarinet and practice tonguing the rhythm on “ta” throughout. Your tongue should be moving the same way to separate the syllables. Remember: **your tongue stops and starts the air to create notes that are separated and clear.** Don’t stop

and start the air. This will create an unfocused sound. Blow one breath and use your tongue to *ta*, *ta-ta* the exercise not HUFF PUFF the rhythm.

- **Play it:** Now play the exercise. Notes should sound crisp and clear and ***separated if your tongue is doing the right movement.***

Musical Excerpts to Practice Tonguing:

Let's play #47 *Eighth Note Explorer* on p. 13 (see below). Follow the same steps of "speak it, tongue it, play it" that you did for the exercise above.

#47 EIGHTH NOTE EXPLORER

Tongue each note on the reed



Counting: ta ta ta ti - ti ta ta ta ti - ti ta ta ta ti - ti ta ta ta ti - ti

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MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS

For Clarinet Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV>

Clarinet lesson developed by Alex Dugdale at Green Lake, Wedgwood, Madrona, West Seattle, Sanislo, BF Day, and Queen Anne

