



# Childhood Instruments

Conversation > Intermediate 6



## Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

<b>instrument</b>	An object used for playing music.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Daily practice is important when learning a musical <b>instrument</b>.</i>

<b>drum</b>	A round musical instrument that is hit with sticks or the hands.
[noun]	<i>Ex: He plays the <b>drums</b> in a band.</i>

<b>glockenspiel</b>	A musical instrument made of metal bars that is played with small hammers.
[noun]	<i>Ex: <b>Glockenspiel</b> is a simple instrument, which is made of metal.</i>

<b>amazing</b>	Very good and surprising.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: You painted an <b>amazing</b> picture.</i>

<b>compliment</b>	To praise someone.
[verb]	<i>Ex: He is very good at <b>complimenting</b> his co-workers.</i>



<b>perform</b>	To do something to entertain people; act, sing, dance, etc.
[verb]	<i>Ex: She's <b>performing</b> in an all-female chorus.</i>

<b>unaware</b>	Not knowing about something.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: She was <b>unaware</b> of social problems.</i>

<b>feel tense</b>	To feel nervous, uncomfortable and unable to relax.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I <b>feel tense</b> whenever I speak English with a foreigner.</i>

<b>associate</b>	To make a connection between things in your mind.
[verb]	<i>Ex: I <b>associate</b> winter with snow.</i>



## Exercise 2 – Dialogue

*Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.*

Peter: When I was a child, I played a small drum. Did you play an instrument, Dave?

Dave: Yes, I remember I had a glockenspiel. I couldn't play it very well, but I tried.

Peter: I have always associated the glockenspiel with Christmas.

Dave: Actually, you are right. I used to play it at our school Christmas parties.

Peter: Really? You had Christmas parties?

Dave: Yeah! My classmates and I would perform Christmas songs every year.

Peter: Woah! That sounds really interesting, Dave.

Dave: I remember I felt a little tense because I wasn't great, but it was fun. Were you a good drummer?



Peter: I was good, but not amazing. My parents complimented me so much that I started to think I was.

Dave: Oh, that was so nice from your parents.

Peter: I feel embarrassed now that I thought I was so talented.

Dave: I think that's normal for children. I was always proud of my performance.

Peter: Really?

Dave: Yeah, I thought that I was the best player in the band.

Peter: We were so young and unaware.

Dave: Yes, we were, Peter.



## Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

*Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.*

### Answer Pool

drum  
amazing  
Glockenspiel  
complimented  
perform  
instruments  
associate  
feel tense  
unaware

1. Most people \_\_\_\_\_ food with pleasure.
2. I like to \_\_\_\_\_ on the stage! I feel great when I do that.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ her looks and got her number.
4. You can see some \_\_\_\_\_ wildlife on safari in Africa.
5. She was \_\_\_\_\_ that he was stealing from her.
6. My dad bought me a small \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is an interesting instrument.
8. He loves playing \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_. I think I need a massage!



## Exercise 4 – Role Play

*Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.*

**Scene:** You and your sister are planning to start a band. Decide what instruments you will play and what sort of music you will make. The teacher can be your sister.



## Exercise 5 – Discussion

*Discuss the following questions with your tutor.*

1. What is your favorite musical instrument? Why do you like it?
2. What are the advantages of learning how to play an instrument from a young age?
3. When you were a child, did you learn to play a musical instrument? Why? Why not?
4. Are there any instruments that you would like to learn to play?
5. What is your favorite childhood memory?