

TROMBONE VOWEL SOUNDS

High notes require faster air Low notes require slower air.

Now, imagine covering a hose with your thumb.
As you obstruct the hole, the water spurts out faster.

Raising the tongue while we play has the same effect on the air flow.

Below are some vowel shapes you might use. (A combination of The Louis Maggio Method and The Buddy Baker Method For Trombone). Experimentation is required, the goal is uniformity of tone throughout the range.

Vowel	Softer Tongue	Harder Tongue	Pronunciation
"Aw"	"Daw"	"Taw"	"More"
"Oh"	"Doh"	"Toh"	"Toe"
"Ah"	"Dah"	"Tah"	"Up"
"Ay"	"Day"	"Tay"	"Say" (Also try "Oo")
"Oo"	"Doo"	"Too"	"Moo"
"Ih"	"Dih"	"Tih"	"Sit"
"Ee"	"Dee"	"Tee"	"Feet"
"Ich"	"Dich"	"Tich"	(hissing sound)

1. TROMBONE RANGE

Aw _____ Oh _____ Ah _____ Eh _____

Ih _____ Ee _____ Ich _____

2. LONG TONES

Experiment with changing the vowel shape of long tones (any pitch).

If you listen extra carefully, you will hear high pitched overtones that change with your tongue positions.

A musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains eleven notes, each with a slur underneath. The notes are: Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2. Below the staff, the following vowel sounds are written under each note: Aw, Oh, Uh, Eh, Ih, Ee, Ih, Eh, Uh, Oh, Aw.

A musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains eleven notes, each with a slur underneath. The notes are: Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2. Below the staff, the following vowel sounds are written under each note: Aw, Oh, Uh, Eh, Ih, Ee, Ih, Eh, Uh, Oh, Aw.

3. SLURRING EXERCISE

Vowel shapes are helpful in slurring as shown below. Keep the air constant.

1st Position

A musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains eleven notes, each with a slur underneath. The notes are: Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2. Below the staff, the following vowel sounds are written under each note: Oh, Ah, Oh, Ah, Ay, Ah, Oh, Ah, Ih, Ah, Oh.

2nd Position

A musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The staff contains eleven notes, each with a slur underneath. The notes are: Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2, Bb2. Below the staff, the following vowel sounds are written under each note: Oh, Ah, Oh, Ah, Ay, Ah, Oh, Ah, Ih, Ah, Oh.