FREE CASE FILE

Piano Note Detective

Practice Repair Detective: Find, Fix, Retry

Every pianist makes slips. A detective finds the exact bar, works out what went wrong, fixes it slowly, and checks the fix three times. Original tunes, repair cards and a practice log.

IN THIS FREE CASE

- 3 cases on fixing practice slips
- Find the bar that went wrong
- Notes or rhythm?
- Slow, focused repairs
- 8 repair plan cards
- A three-try practice log

Find the bar. Name the problem. Fix it slowly.

1 **Find the bar**

2 **Notes or rhythm?**

3 **Fix it slowly**

4 **Retry three times**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For beginners who read short pieces on the treble and bass staves and count 3/4 and 4/4 · Three sittings of about 15 minutes · At a piano or keyboard

How the case file works

Three cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a beginner who reads short pieces on the treble and bass staves, counts 3/4 and 4/4, and the grown-up who helps at home. A slip is information: it says exactly where to practice. Each case shows a short original tune and what a young pianist really played. The detective finds the bar that went wrong, decides if it was the notes or the rhythm, and chooses a slow, focused repair.

EACH CASE

The story	Read it aloud together. It says what the detective is looking for.
Learn	The rule for this case, with a picture. Point at it while you read it.
Tasks	Find-the-bar and choice tasks have one best answer with its reason. The practice log is the learner's own record.

YOU NEED

- A pencil
- A piano or keyboard
- The repair plan cards at the back (cut out)
- Three short sittings, one case each

GOOD TO KNOW

- Fix one bar at a time: the smallest piece that went wrong.
- Slow is not a punishment: it is how fingers learn the right notes.
- Count three good tries before going back to full speed.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Practice-skills activities for beginners, not piano lessons. A teacher decides fingering and tempo for each real piece.

Case 1: The Wrong Note

Find the bar with a wrong note and fix it slowly

THE STORY

Ruby practiced her new tune every day, but one spot always sounded odd. Her grown-up wrote down exactly what she played. Find the slip.

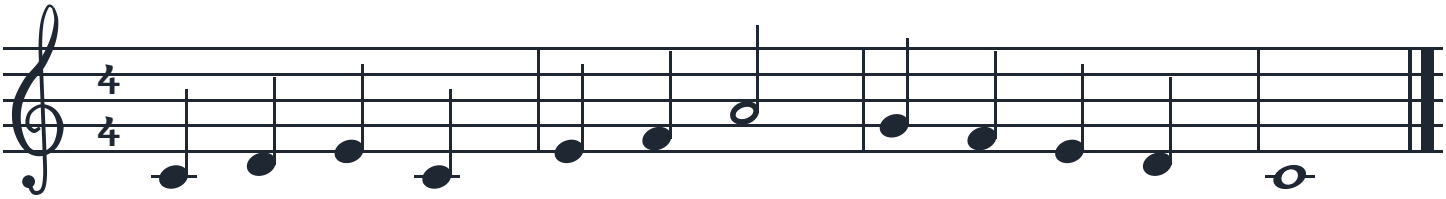
LEARN

- Compare the music and what was played, one bar at a time.
- A wrong note is a different key: the rhythm can still be right.
- Fix the smallest piece: play just that bar, slowly, saying the note names.

1 Which bar did Ruby play differently? Was it the notes or the rhythm?

The music

What Ruby played



Bar number: ☐ What changed? notes rhythm

2 Choose the best first repair.

1. Ruby wants to fix the slip. What should she do first?

   (A) Play the whole piece again, faster

   (B) Play just that bar slowly, saying the note names, three times

   (C) Skip that bar from now on

Case 1: The Wrong Note (continued)

3 Play the bar Ruby missed, slowly, three times. Then play it with the bar before it.

I played it | I played it with help

Case 2: The Wrong Rhythm

Find the bar with a rhythm slip and fix it by counting

THE STORY

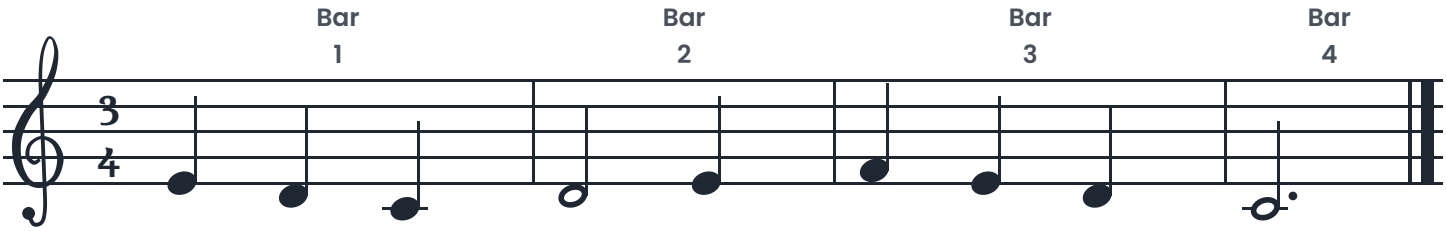
Theo played every right key, but his teacher said something was "wobbly". The keys were right. What was not?

LEARN

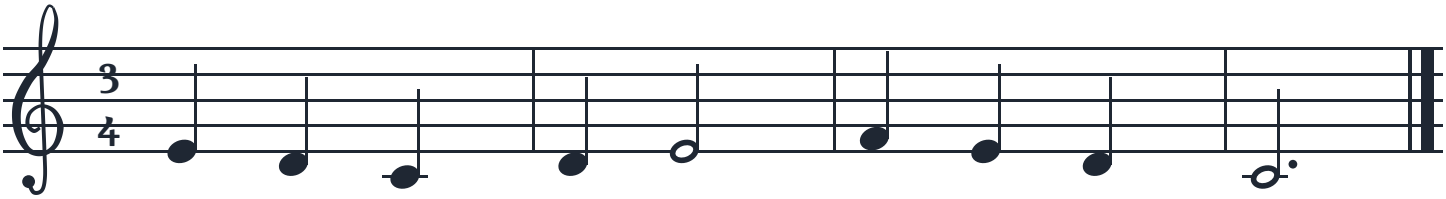
- A rhythm slip uses the right keys but holds them for the wrong length.
- Fix rhythm away from the keys first: clap and count the bar out loud.
- Then play it slowly while counting.

1 Which bar did Theo play differently? Was it the notes or the rhythm?

The music



What Theo played



Bar number: ☐ **What changed?** notes rhythm

2 Choose the best first repair.

1. Theo holds the wrong note longer in that bar. What should he do first?

   (A) Clap and count the bar out loud: "1 2 3"
   (B) Play the bar louder
   (C) Play the next bar instead

Case 2: The Wrong Rhythm (continued)

3 Clap bar 2 while counting "1 2 3", then play it slowly while counting.

I played it I played it with help

Case 3: Find, Fix, Retry

A repair plan and three good tries

THE STORY

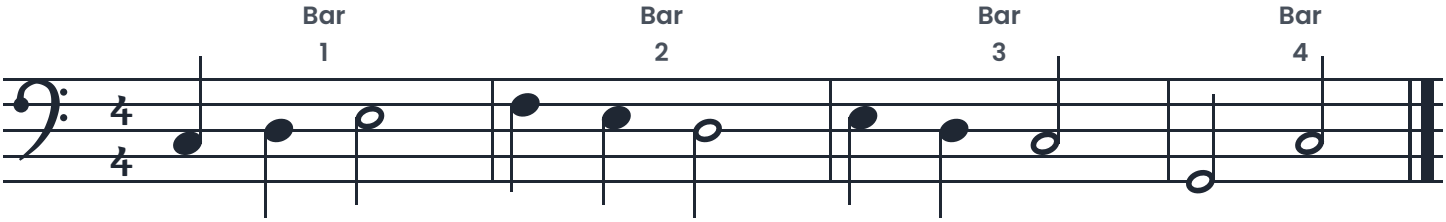
The last case is the detective's own practice. Find a slip in the left-hand tune, fix it, and keep a record of three tries.

LEARN

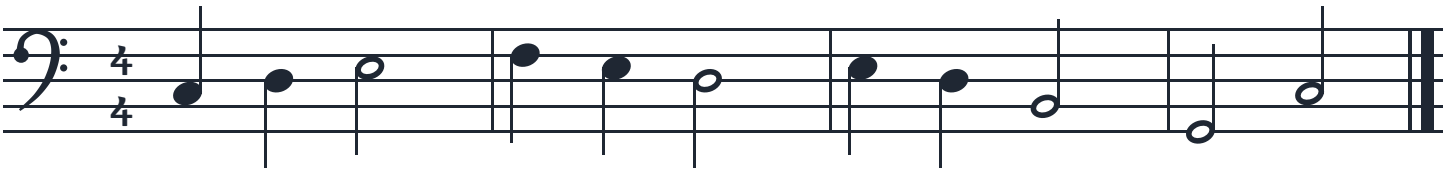
- A repair plan: find the bar, name the problem, slow it down, then add the bars around it.
- Three good tries in a row means the fix works today; check it again at the next practice.
- Fingering: use the fingers your teacher marked. A different finger is not a wrong note; if it makes the next notes awkward, ask your teacher.

1 Which bar was played differently? Was it the notes or the rhythm?

The music (left hand)



What was played



Bar number: ☐ **What changed?** notes rhythm

2 Choose the best answer.

1. Ella played a note with finger 2 instead of finger 3. The right key, the right rhythm. Is it a mistake?

   (A) Always a mistake

   (B) Not a wrong note: the key and rhythm are right; check the fingering if her teacher asked for finger 3 or it makes the next notes awkward

   (C) It never matters

Case 3: Find, Fix, Retry (continued)

3 Fix the bar, then play the whole tune three times. Circle what really happened each time.

Try 1 smooth one or more slips stopped

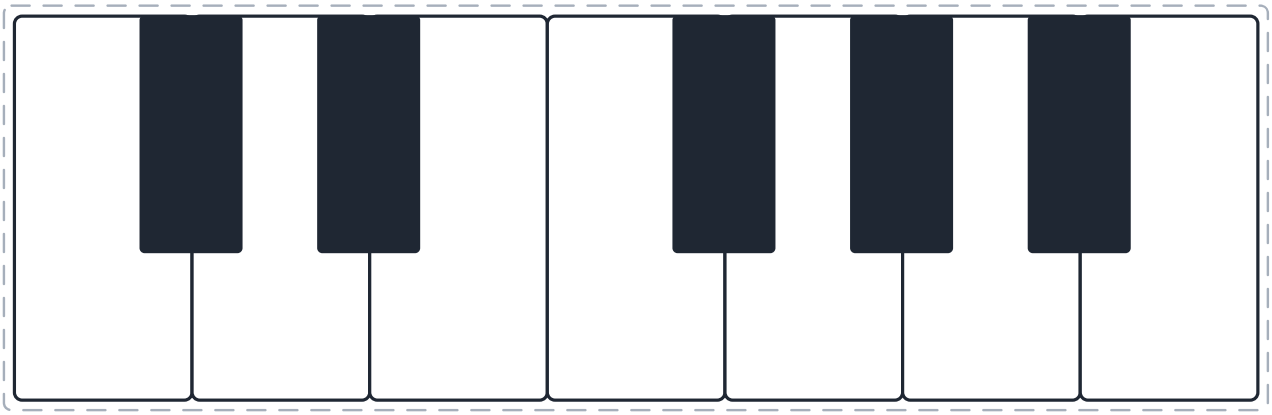
Try 2 smooth one or more slips stopped

Try 3 smooth one or more slips stopped

Paper keyboard

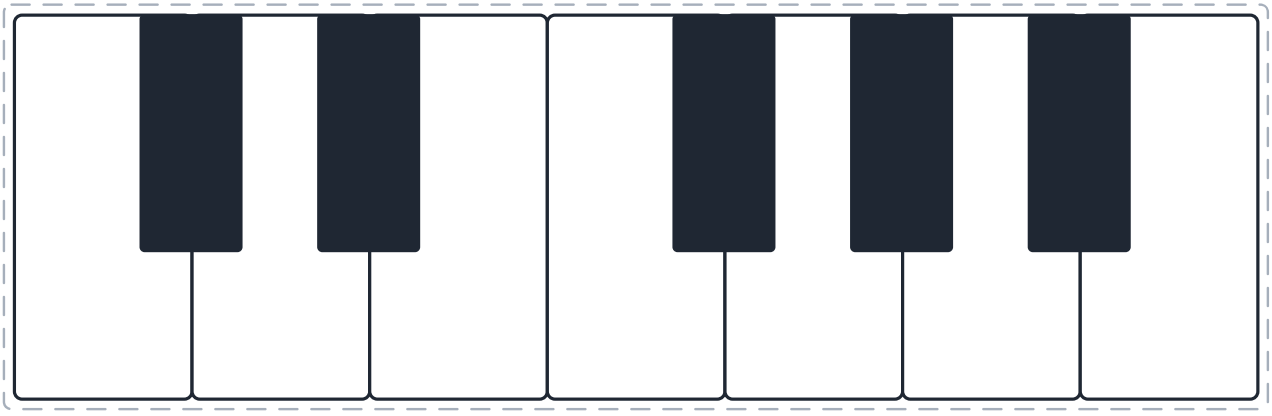
Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

Low



Middle

High



Only Middle C is labeled: finding the other keys is the detective's job. Tape the rows edge to edge (low on the left) to make one long keyboard.

Repair plan cards

Cut out the cards. After finding the slip, pick one card and try it.

CARD 1

Slow it down

Play the bar at half speed. Speed comes back later.

CARD 2

Name it first

Say the note names of the bar out loud, then play them.

CARD 3

Clap and count

Clap the rhythm of the bar while counting out loud, then play it.

CARD 4

Loop the bar

Play just that bar three times in a row.

CARD 5

Add a bar

Play the bar before it and the slip bar together.

CARD 6

Hands alone

Practice the slip with one hand, then the other, then together.

CARD 7

Check the fingers

Look at the fingering your teacher marked and follow it.

CARD 8

Three good tries

Three smooth tries in a row: the fix works today. Check it again at the next practice.

Answers

Every answer comes with its reason. Read the reasons aloud: they teach.

CASE 1 · THE WRONG NOTE

Task 1 **PND51-C1-T1**	Bar 2: the notes Written in bar 2: E quarter note, F quarter note, G half note. Played: E quarter note, F quarter note, A half note.
Task 2 **PND51-C1-T2**	1 B: Play just that bar slowly, saying the note names, three times The slip is in one bar: slow, named practice of just that bar fixes it fastest. Then add the bar before it.
Task 3 **PND51-C1-T3**	E, F, G (a half note on G), three times; then bars 1 and 2 together.

CASE 2 · THE WRONG RHYTHM

Task 1 **PND51-C2-T1**	Bar 2: the rhythm Written in bar 2: D half note, E quarter note. Played: D quarter note, E half note.
Task 2 **PND51-C2-T2**	1 A: Clap and count the bar out loud: "1 2 3" Counting out loud away from the keys fixes the lengths; then he plays it slowly while counting.
Task 3 **PND51-C2-T3**	D held for "1 2", E on "3".

CASE 3 · FIND, FIX, RETRY

Task 1 **PND51-C3-T1**	Bar 3: the notes Written in bar 3: E quarter note, D quarter note, C half note. Played: E quarter note, D quarter note, B half note.
Task 2 **PND51-C3-T2**	1 B: Not a wrong note: the key and rhythm are right; check the fingering if her teacher asked for finger 3 or it makes the next notes awkward If the teacher marked finger 3, practice it. If not, it is not a wrong note: the right key and rhythm come first, and a finger that makes the next notes awkward is worth asking the teacher about.
Task 3 **PND51-C3-T3**	The learner's own record (no single answer). Three smooth tries in a row: the fix works today; check it again at the next practice. Otherwise, go back to the slow bar.