Caring for my Trombone!

Name of Musician: ________________________
How to Look After Your Trombone

AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL

Our instruments are expensive pieces of equipment which need to be looked after very carefully!

Here are the Four Golden Rules we will follow to keep our Instruments happy!
I will keep my Trombone safe!

I will make sure I keep my instrument in its case at all times when I am not playing it. Even the smallest of knocks could damage my instrument and make it unplayable.
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My Trombone Belongs To Me Only!

I won’t let anyone else play my instrument, they could easily break it as they don’t know how to handle it properly.
I WILL KEEP MY TROMBONE COOL AND DRY!

I will make sure I keep my instrument away from hot radiators, and make sure it doesn't get wet.
I will never leave my instrument outside.
THE PARTS OF MY TROMBONE!

- Bell
- Bell Lock
- Slide
- Mouthpiece
- Tuning Slide
- Water Key
- 1st Slide Brace
- 2nd Slide Brace
I will try to play my trombone every day!

I will try to play my instrument whenever I can, even if it is for just five or ten minutes.

If I play my instrument regularly it will stay in much better condition than if I leave it in its case for a long time.
Before I even open my trombone case I should:

Make sure my case is the right way up so my trombone won’t fall out when I open it.

I will also make sure my trombone is taken out of its case on a flat stable surface like a table or on the floor.
Before I start playing my trombone I should:

1. Check that my slide is moving smoothly, if it isn’t I will spray a little bit of water on it using my special spray bottle. If I don’t know what to do, I’ll ask my music teacher for help.

2. Put my Mouthpiece inside my Trombone gently, being really careful not to push it in too hard.

3. Blow some air thorough my trombone and open the water keys (A) to check there is no water inside my trumpet.

4. Warm myself and my Trombone up by blowing some long notes and then some short notes. I can practice some warm up exercises that my teacher has given me.
After I have finished playing my trombone, I should:

1. Hold each water key open (A) and blow any moisture out of my Trombone.

2. Carefully take out your mouthpiece and put it in its special compartment in your case so it doesn’t get bumped. If you can’t get your mouthpiece out, ask a teacher for some help.

3. Wipe down my Trombone with a soft cloth to remove any dirt and fingerprints.

4. Put my Trombone in its case and fasten the latches so it doesn’t fall out. I will make sure I don’t keep anything else in my case as this may damage my Trombone.

I will keep my Trombone in a safe place when I have finished playing.
This is how I will assemble my trombone!
Open your case and carefully take out the slide part of your Trombone (A). Make sure the slide lock is kept on for the moment.

Gently rest the end of the slide on the floor in front of you with the taller of the two tubes on the right hand side.

Carefully lift the bell part of your instrument out of the case. (B).

Gently place the tube of the Bell (C) part over the longer of the two tubes of the slide part (D) being careful no to knock the slide with the bell.
Place the bell part on your left knee and adjust the slide part with your right hand until it is at a 90 degree angle to the bell part of your trombone. You can check that the angle is right by making an ‘L’ shape with your finger and thumb.

Twist the Bell lock (E) until the two parts of your Trombone are locked together.
Gently put your Mouthpiece in to the tubing of your Trombone. Give it a very small twist to secure it in place.

**STEP 5:**

**STEP 6:**

*JOB DONE!*

You are ready to play. Unlock the slide and move it up and down to check it is working ok. If you have any problems or are struggling to put your Trombone together, ask your music teacher for help straight away.