

# Common Flute Student Mis-fingerings:

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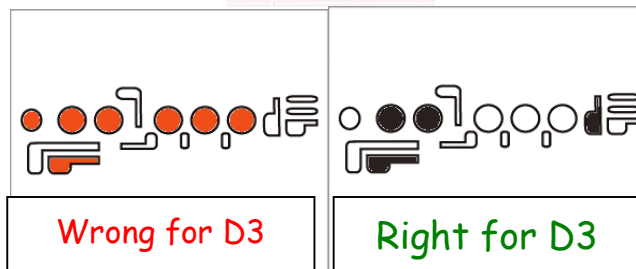
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## Typical flute fingering mistakes:

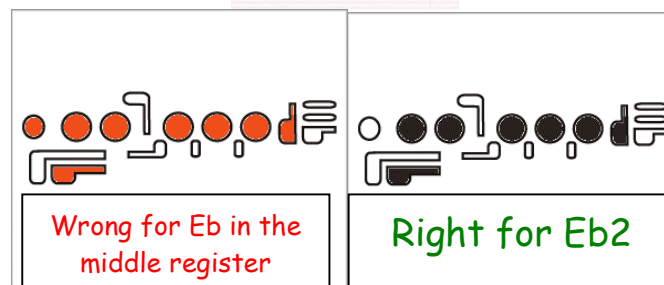
1. The student misfingers F# by playing it with the middle finger instead of the ring finger. Ring finger is better in tune and tone.

2. The student mistakenly plays high register notes by over-blowing middle or low octave fingerings. This is very common in band flutists with no private lessons who learn fingerings too quickly without consulting a chart.

**Example:** High D is often mis-fingered by students as middle or low octave D. They then try and over-blow it to make a fuzzy, out of tune high note.



3. The Flute student accidentally leaves the top finger on when playing middle octave D or Eb. Correction: Left hand index finger must be off to vent the notes D2 and Eb2.



4. The flute student mistakenly leaves the right hand pinky left off for many notes where it should be on ( Note: Right hand pinky should be on for almost all notes except for middle D2 and low D1.)

**Example:** F natural should have right hand pinky *on* to be in tune and clear.

The diagram shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a single note on the second line (F2). Below the staff are two diagrams of a flute's key mechanism. The left diagram shows the right hand pinky key (the second key from the right) as a red circle, indicating it is not pressed. Below it is a red box with the text "Wrong for F2" and "Right hand pinky is off". The right diagram shows the right hand pinky key as a black circle, indicating it is pressed. Below it is a green box with the text "Right for F2".

5. The flute student may not know there are three ways to finger Bb and may either avoid using Bb thumb key because they've been told that it's "cheating", or may **ONLY** use the Bb thumb key, and have trouble playing B-naturals.

**Example:** There are three Bb fingerings and each one is used for a different purpose.

The diagram shows a musical staff with a treble clef and two notes: Bb on the second space and B-natural on the second line. Below the staff are three diagrams of a flute's key mechanism. The first diagram shows the Bb thumb key (the leftmost key) as a black circle, indicating it is pressed. Below it is a pink box with the text "Most common Bb fingering". The second diagram shows the Bb thumb key as a black circle and the B-natural key (the second key from the left) as a black circle, indicating both are pressed. Below it is a blue box with the text "Used for G to Bb smoothness". The third diagram shows the B-natural key as a black circle and the Bb thumb key as a white circle, indicating only the B-natural key is pressed. Below it is a green box with the text "Best fingering from Bb to B-natural".

*Also check the following in flute students:*

6. **Trill Charts:** Often in band flutists, **trills are performed with incorrect fingerings.** Have students keep a fingering chart for trills taped inside their folders. **See:** <http://www.jennifercluff.com/fingering.htm>

7. **Flute student's left hand pinky may stray too far away from the Ab key** forcing them to reposition the hand everytime they need to play that note.

8. **Flute student may be leaning right hand on the rods,** leading to overhanging and slow right hand fingers that approach at a slant. Corrections for these two problems can be found at: <http://www.jennifercluff.com/lineup.htm>