

Brass Playing Techniques and Terms

Bell: The bell is the term for the end of brass instruments where they flare out wide- it is vital for good sound projection.

Embouchure: The shape and position of the musicians mouth as they play.

Finger Ring and Thumb Hook: Small metal hooks to ensure the musician's hand position is accurate.

Lead Pipe and Receiver: The first part of tubing on a brass instrument is called the lead pipe. The receiver is at the end of this and is where the mouthpiece fits.

Mutes: Mutes alter the sound of the instrument. They are fitted into the bell.

Valve Keys: These keys change the pitch of the instrument by introducing additional tubing and changing it's overall length.

Water Keys: These keys release excess moisture from inside the instrument.

Trigger: Allows the player to temporarily adjust the tuning of notes by lengthening the main valve slide.



Exercise:

Without looking at the previous sheet, what do these techniques and terms mean?

Bell:

Embouchure:

Finger Ring and Thumb Hook:

Lead Pipe and Receiver:

Mutes:

Valve Keys:

Water Keys:

Trigger:

