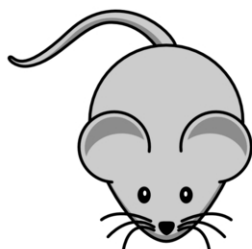


# Top 6 Reasons You're Squeaking And What To Do About It



## 1. **Bad reeds**

Don't play on reeds that are chipped, bent, or more than 3 months old. "Break in" a new box of reeds the first week by playing new reeds for just a few minutes in the low register.

## 2. **Biting**

If your lower lip feels sore after you play, you are probably biting. You can practice playing double lip to fix this.

## 3. **Hand position**

Every hole needs to be completely covered for the note to come out. Remember: you don't need to press your fingers harder! You just need to make sure you're covering each hole.

## 4. **Breathing**

Sometimes squeaking can happen if you don't take a good breath. Check your breathing with the "Darth Vader breath."

## 5. **Something is wrong with the instrument**

If steps 1-4 don't seem to help, try having a friend or teacher play your instrument. If they are having the same squeaking problems, you need to take your clarinet to the shop.

## 6. **You're learning something new**

Squeaking is a fact of life for clarinet players. If you're learning new high notes, you're going to squeak sometimes! Don't worry; it will get better soon.