

50 SINGING TIPS FOR THE STARTING SINGER

- Plan ahead
- Sore throat? Try an apple or pear (or their juices)
- Don't do anything that will hurt your voice in any way
- Just because a singer sounds nice doesn't mean s/he can sing
- When you are learning to sing, you are doing it to find out what *your* voice is capable of, not someone else's; be happy with what you have
- To those who want to sing pop music: There is nothing wrong with learning classical
- To those who wish to sing classical: There is nothing wrong with learning popular
- You are not the person on the radio-don't try to imitate them unless you are trying to learn something
- Don't drink
- Don't do drugs
- Don't allow people to come at your vocal cords with sharp instruments. In other words: Don't allow doctors to perform surgery on your vocal cords, as there is a possibility you may never sing again after this. The only way to not have vocal problems is to not do harm to your voice in the first place, a skill which isn't taught due to lack of information.
- You can forget ice-cold drinks unless you have some sort of trauma to the throat area, i.e. tonsils removed, that sort of thing.
Reason: It tightens up your vocal cords. They must be warm and loose in order for you to sing properly.
- Don't talk too much
Reason: It wears down your vocal cords.
- Try to stay away from a lot of dust
- Try to cough a little quieter
- Don't sing any song out of you range
- Don't sing your loudest for extended periods of time
- Ask as many questions of as many people as you can about singing
- Keep away from air conditioning for at least two hours before a performance
- Get to know and understand the organs involved in singing
- Singing will help to cure a sore throat that is not the result of oversinging or overtalking
- Practice as slowly and softly as possible
- Learn every style of singing you can
- Dairy products cause phlegm
- Singing helps to get rid of phlegm
- When singing, make sure you know what the song is about by knowing what all the words mean and what is going on in the music.
- If you must sing in a group, make sure you know what the other voices are doing
- Know what the music is doing
- Contrary to classical tradition, taking pictures is not a distraction
- It is harder to make an audience sit in quiet awe than it is to start a party
- Play to the back of the crowd
- Being hoarse in the morning does not mean you will be hoarse in the evening
- After performing, place a warm, wet towel around your neck and do not speak for 10 minutes
- Gargle with warm water containing 1/2 tsp each of salt and baking soda
- Try to wear only one fabric on stage
Reason: Those lights get hot
- Learning how to sing well takes time. There are no shortcuts

- Train your ears by playing only the first note of a musical exercise
- Always take one day a week off
- Unless it's called for, always stand with good posture (this does not mean standing stiffly) when you sing
- Any move you make will affect the sound you are trying to produce
- Don't exert yourself the day before a performance