

How to Become a Piano Tuner

THE PROS AND CONS OF DIFFERENT LEARNING OPTIONS FOR PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR												
Method	Cost	Opportunity	Travel Requirement	Discipline Needed	Demands on the Student	Required Qualities	Weekly Time Requirement	Estimated Time Before Possible Independence	Chance of Success	Quality of Instruction	Actions	
Individual	Low, and spread out over time	You make your own opportunity	You may have to travel to take classes or lessons, as you see fit.	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep focused - Reach out to others - Stay organised - Find own resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused - Self learner - Highly disciplined - Independent learner - High intelligence - Organised - High aptitude for problem solving 	Varies according to the student.	Very long, possibly many years.	Varies quite a lot depending on discipline and opportunity but most students do not achieve much success with this method.	<p>Due to you learning by yourself a lot, you have a high chance of learning bad habits, learning the wrong way, and not having a well rounded education.</p> <p>For these reasons, the quality of instruction for the individual method is rated as Very Low, but if the student is disciplined to search out complete resources and qualified instructors, the quality could be higher.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read as much as possible - Attend PTG conventions - Take different classes (business, tuning, repair, etc) - Buy an old piano and work on it - Work on other pianos for free - Volunteer at a rebuilding shop - Create a learning schedule - Watch videos at howtotunepianos.com - Be wary of youtube videos from unqualified people - Join pianoworld.com but be careful how you ask questions; they do not like rudeness. 	
Apprentice	You may be paid if you're lucky, but you may have to pay the technician. It depends. You may be able to use your mentor's tools.	Practically non-existent	You may have to travel and live in a city where your mentor lives because there are so few mentors willing to train.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exceptionally high work ethic; the mentor may fire you or quit teaching if you are lazy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good listener - Able to follow direction - Fast learner - Punctual - Reliable 	Could be full-time but depends on the availability and demand of the mentoring technician.	One to two years, depending on the qualifications and teaching experience of the mentor.	Varies quite a lot depending on you discipline and the skills of the mentor.	<p>The vast majority of technicians do not mentor. If one decides to take you on, it may be their first experience at teaching. Teaching takes years to get good at it. If the mentor has been doing this for a long time, the quality should be high. Read their reviews from other students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call every piano technician you can find. Use these sources: yellow pages, internet, stores, music teachers, etc. - Contact the PTG (ptg.org) and see if there are any technicians in nearby cities who mentor. - Be extremely polite. - Be prepared to pay for instruction and tell the technician you are willing to pay. If they pay their apprentices, they will still pay you and the offer will mean a lot to them. 	
Formal School	Tens of thousands of dollars	There are only a few schools that teach this skill.	You will have to move to the school's city if you do not have a school in yours.	Moderately Low	<p>Ultimately; none. You paid a lot of money for the course so the teachers may not care if you goof off.</p> <p>The demands may have to be placed on you by yourself.</p>	<p>Ultimately; none. Some schools have a high entrance requirement and will test your natural aptitude and basic musicianship, but others may have no prerequisites at all.</p>	Full-Time	Should be ready after one year.	Also varies quite a lot because the school may not require you to reach a high standard, depending on the school.	<p>You might think the quality should be high, but that is not a guarantee. Tuning is an old profession and a lot of technology has changed in the last ten years. Many schools are reluctant to change with the times and continue to teach outdated and relatively inefficient systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look up piano technology schools online and at ptg.org. - Make an application. - They may require you to take a pre-test; do some research. Watch free videos at http://howtotunepianos.com. 	