

## Hi Everybody!

## Weekly Challenge #6

Here is musical challenge number **six**.

Hopefully by now you're becoming more familiar with [Minute of Listening](#) so it's time to

1) Log in, 2) Find the **Bristol** collection and 3) Listen to **Minute #19**

**Minute #19** is of a saxophonist playing in Cabot Circus. The *echoes* you can hear seems to 'fill-out' the sound of the piece of music - almost providing its own accompaniment. The sound waves are bouncing (reflecting) off nearby buildings; allowing us to hear them more than once.

This challenge is all about **vibration**. If you had to explain vibration to someone, how would you describe it? Start by imagining hitting the skin of a drum – what happens? What vibrates? Why?!

In order for us to hear a sound, the air has to vibrate too - and these soundwaves make our eardrum vibrate.

We are going to experiment with **reed** making, today. The saxophone you heard uses a reed. Clarinets, oboes and bassoons use them too. Let's see how they work!

Three things you can use to make a **reed**:

### A big blade of grass

Find a broad blade of grass like the one in the picture. Hold it taut between your thumbs as shown. Blow through the narrow gap between your thumbs. You can vary the pitch by cupping your hands differently.



### A comb and a piece of paper

The best paper I've found for this is the greaseproof/ baking/ parchment paper that is often used in baking. Other thin paper works too. Wrap it around a flat comb as shown in the picture. Then you make a 'doo doo' sound with your lips against the comb's tines. You can change your pitch to play any tune. This is similar to a kazoo.



### A plastic straw

Fortunately, for the planet, there's been a big drop in the use of plastic straws. If you have any in your house, they can make a fun musical instrument. Start by really flattening 2-3cm of the straw in your front teeth. It needs to be really flat to work well. Once you're sure there'd be no chance of drinking a milkshake through it, it's time to cut the flattened end to resemble a blunt pencil (as shown in the picture. Your new 'reed' now need to go past your lips so the parts can freely **vibrate**. Then blow! You can change the pitch by snipping your straw(s) to different lengths. Have fun!!!

