

# Slide Technique Exercise

**Andante**

*legato*

Slide technique ranks up with sound and intonation as one of the most crucial areas that a trombonist needs to master. The slide makes the trombone unique to all other instruments. Some of the more common problems trombonists have with slide technique include the following:

1. The slide moves before the tongue.
2. The note is tongued before the slide moves.
3. The slide moves too slowly.
4. The note is not tongued at all causing an unwanted glissando.
5. The air is stopped between notes.

This exercise should sound as if it were being slurred by a baritone player. The notes should be connected without space between except for the slight "Da" tongue. The airstream should be even and consistent. The horn needs to be held firmly in the left hand and the slide needs to be working smoothly.

Try this exercise without tonguing. The glissando can almost (not quite) be used. Snap the slide without jerking the air, then add the tongue.

This exercise can also be played on one pitch (not moving the slide) to isolate the air and tongue.

After perfecting the Slide Technique Exercise between 1st and 2nd positions, try going from 1st to 3rd (Bb to Ab), 1st to 4th, etc.

*Mediocrity is excellence to the mediocre.*