



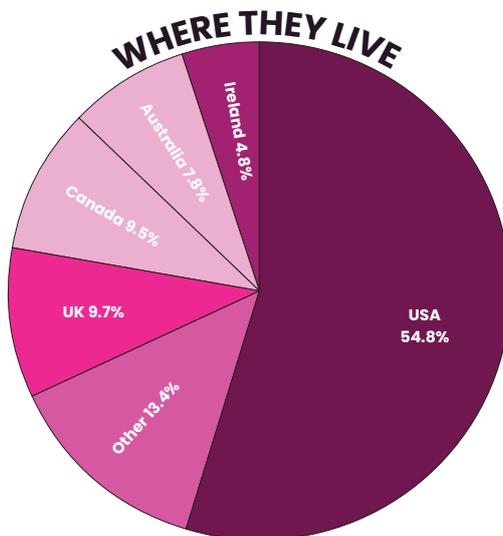
2024

PRACTICE

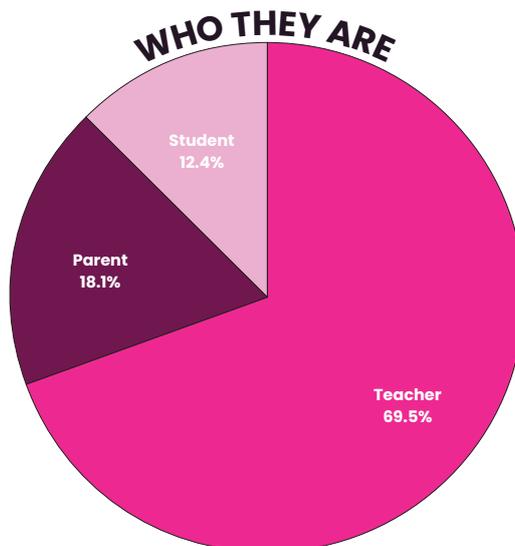
REPORT

Sponsored by Vivid Practice

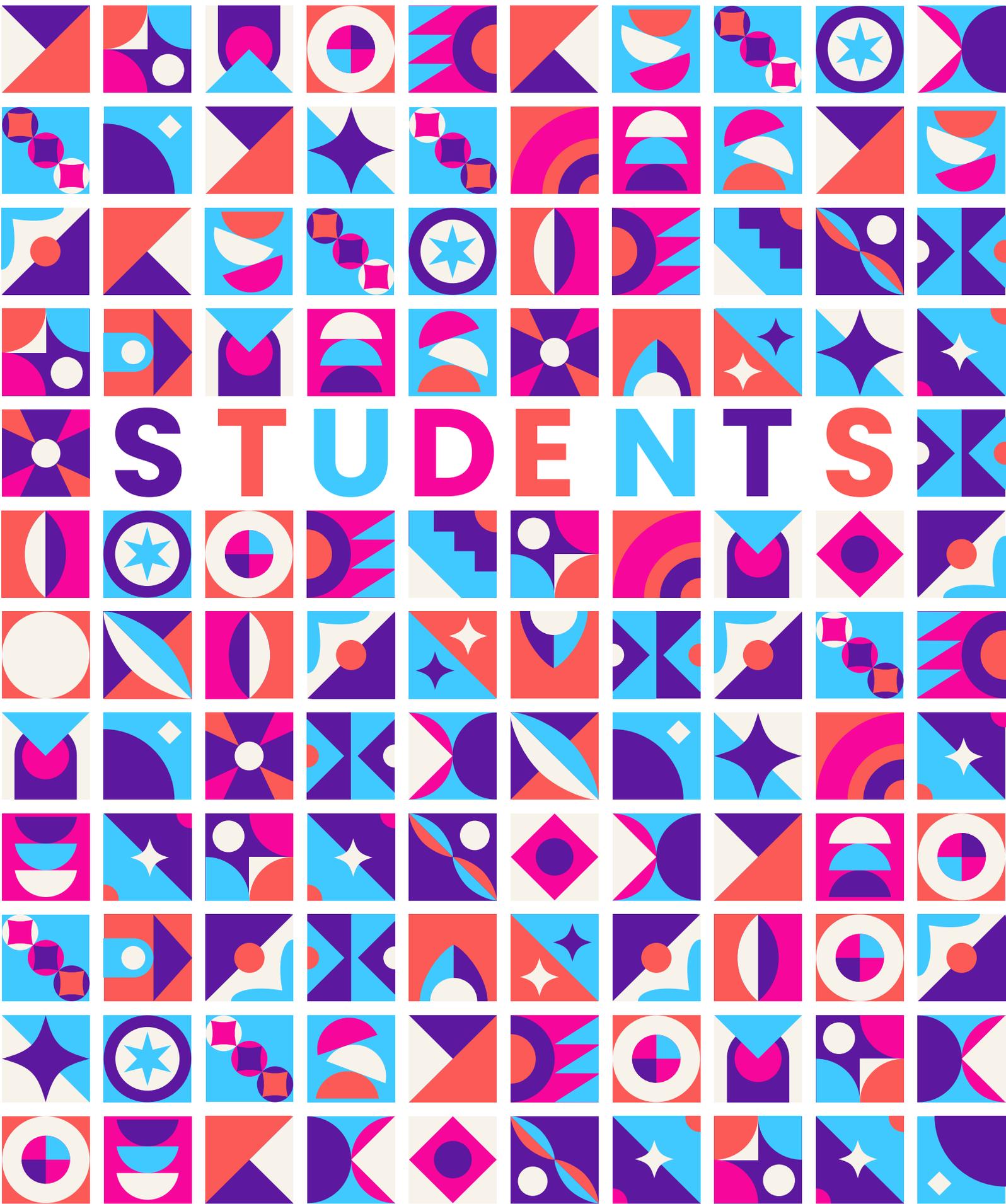
First, a quick overview. We had 524 responses to this survey with good representation across the English-speaking world.



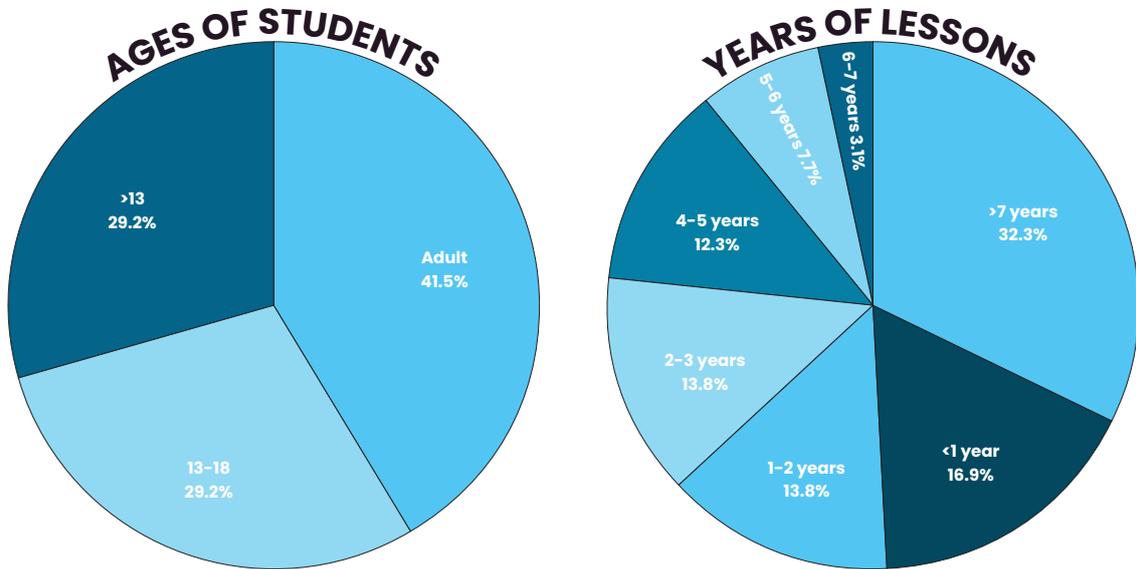
Almost 70% of the responses were from teachers, with about 18% from parents and 12% from students.



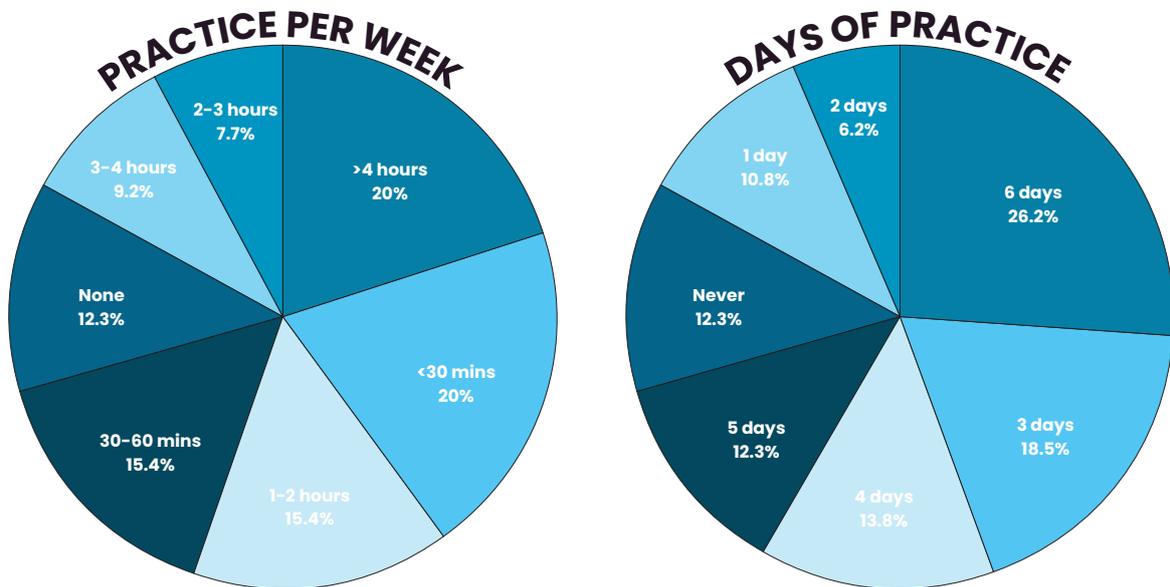
The rest of this report is divided into these 3 groups for clarity, with some comparisons included between the cohorts as relevant in the 'Teachers' section.



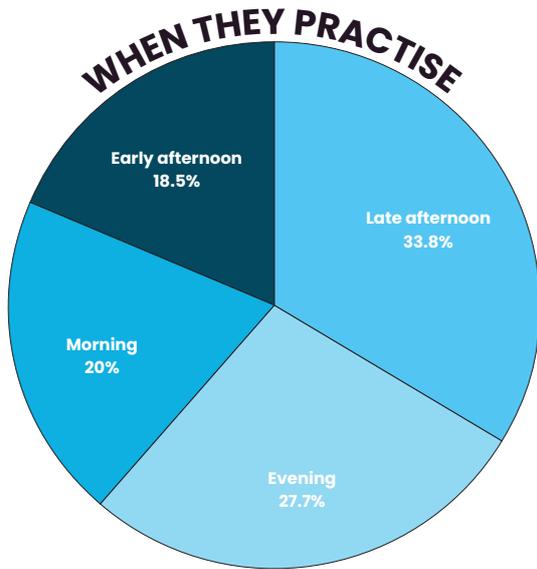
The students who responded were mostly teenagers and adults, but we did have a group of “under 13s” who completed the survey with their parents’ help. We had a good mix of experience represented: plenty of beginners and also plenty who had been taking lessons for over 7 years.



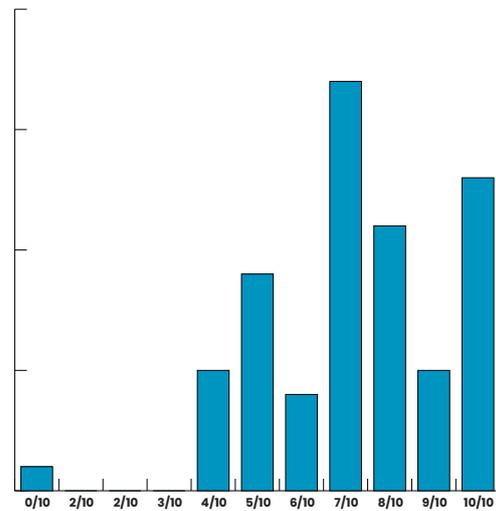
We asked about total practice amounts per week as well as number of days of practice. A substantial minority of around 12% said they did no practice at all.



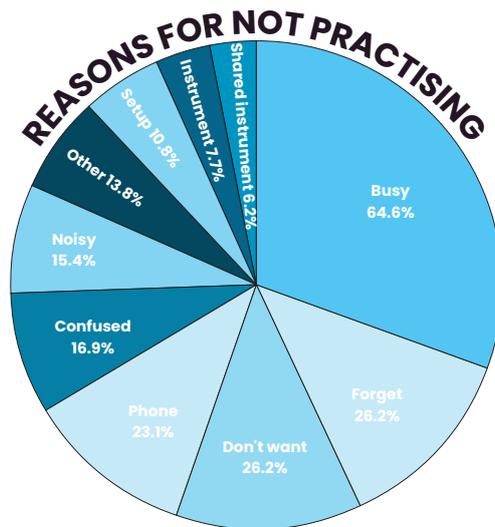
As for when students practise, the responses were pretty evenly split. I think many will be surprised how many practise in the morning before work or school.



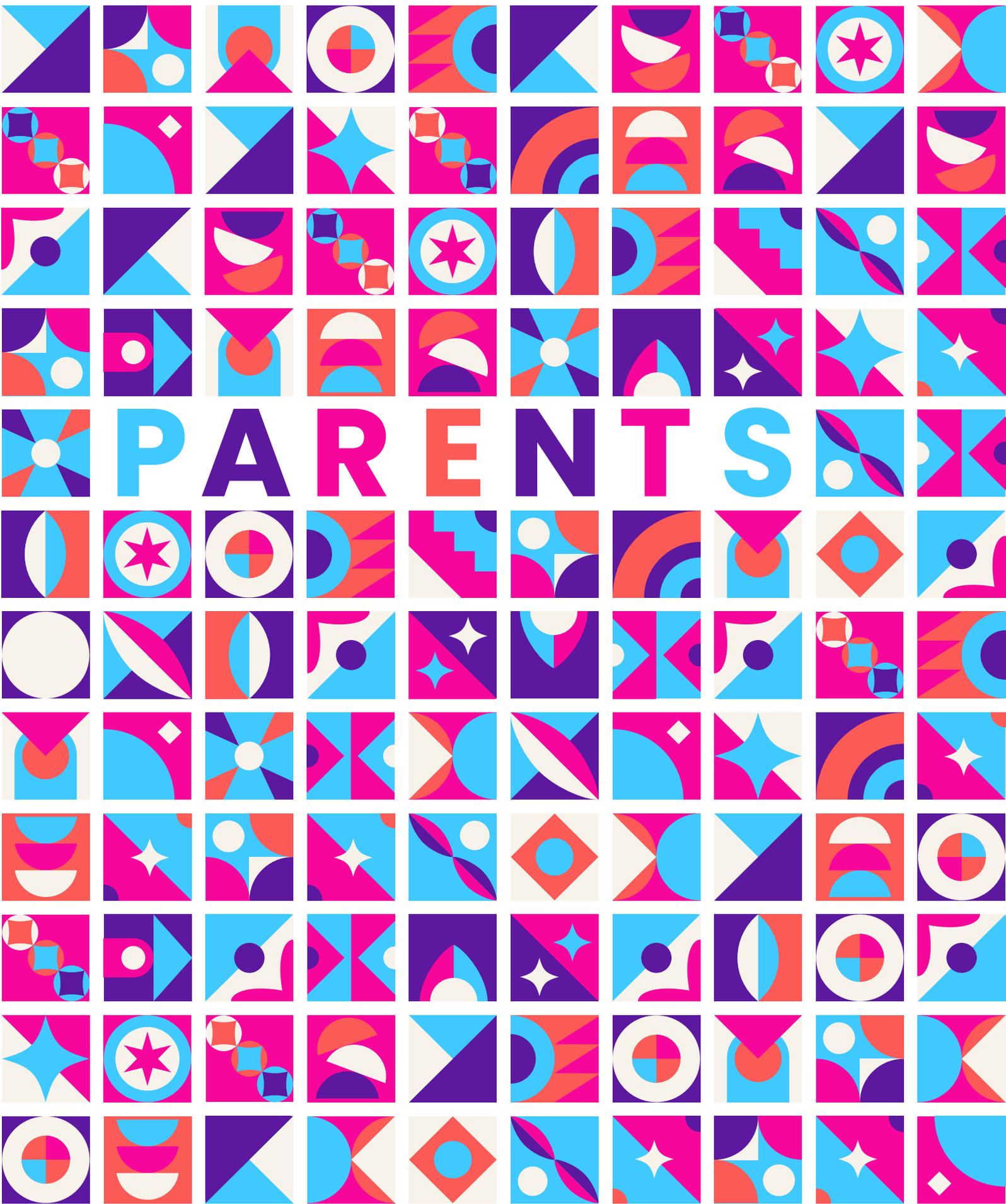
PRACTICE ENJOYMENT



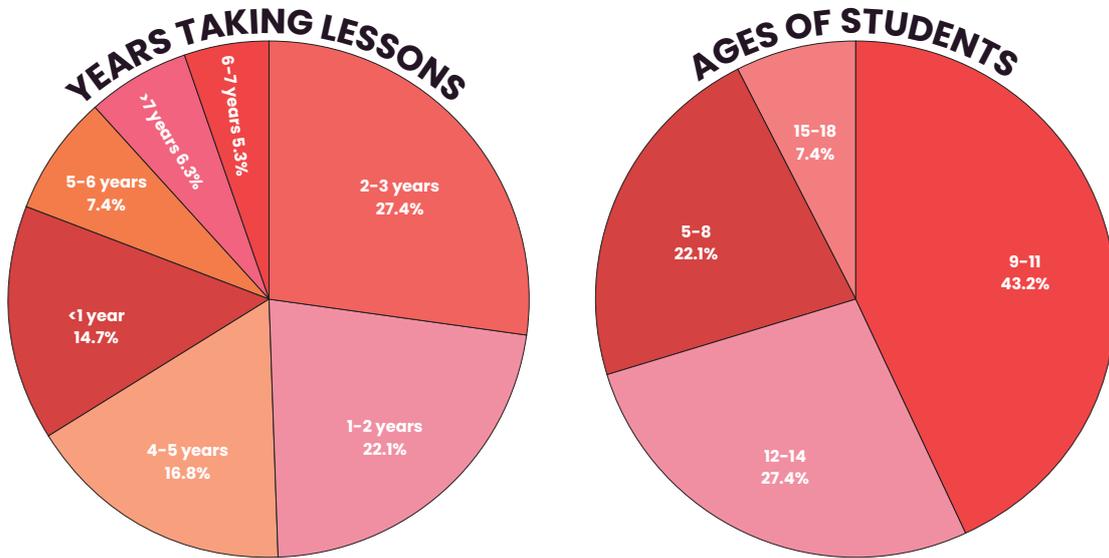
The students generally said they enjoyed practice with most giving it over 5 out of 10 .



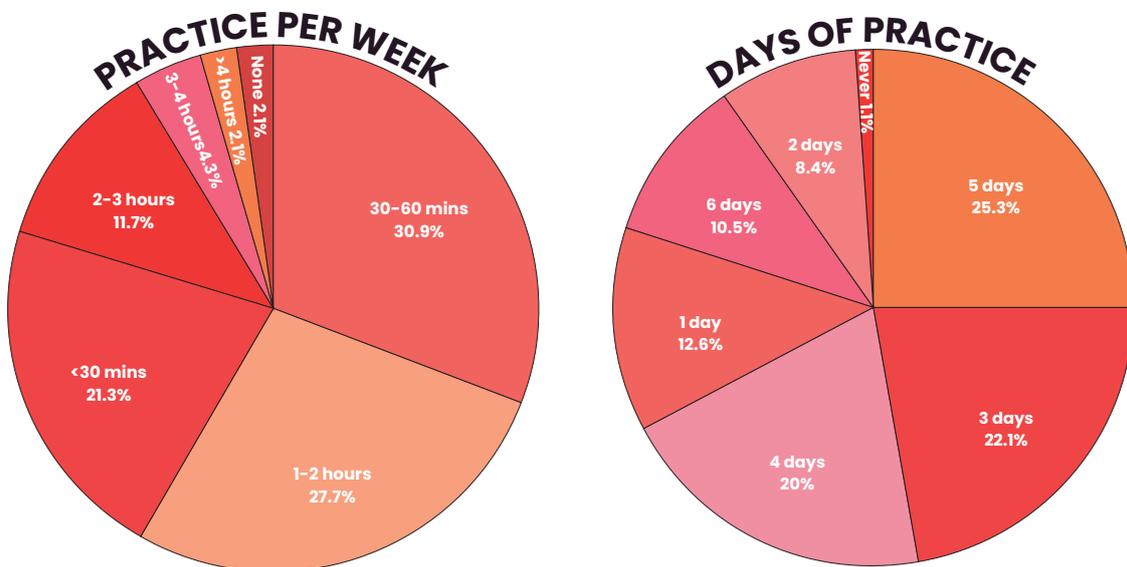
The fact that many students said they were just too busy to practise is likely unsurprising, but I think we should be concerned as a teaching community about how many say they are confused about what and how to practise. That's something we can and should be helping them with!



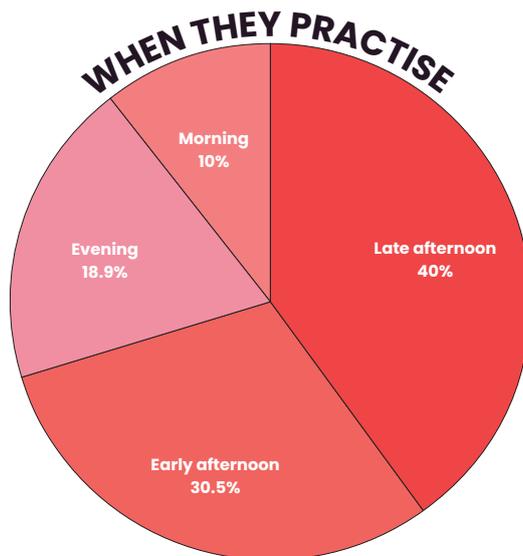
We're so thankful to the music parents who took time out of their busy schedules to respond! The parents who completed the survey represented a good mix of student ages and years of experience.



Most parents said their children did at least some practice each week, and over 45% said they did at least 1 hour or more of practice each week.

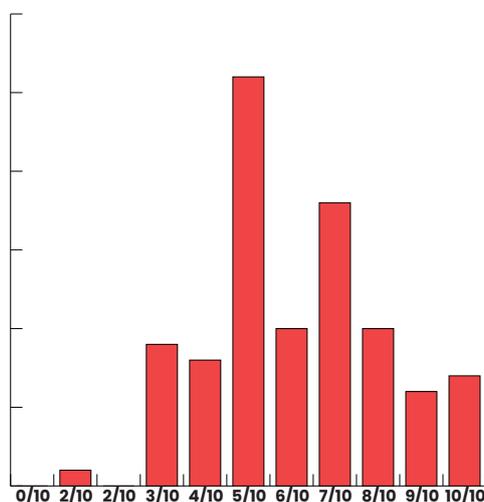


We must note that there is likely to be a bias in the data here: Parents whose kids do not practise at all are probably also less likely to fill out a survey about practice.



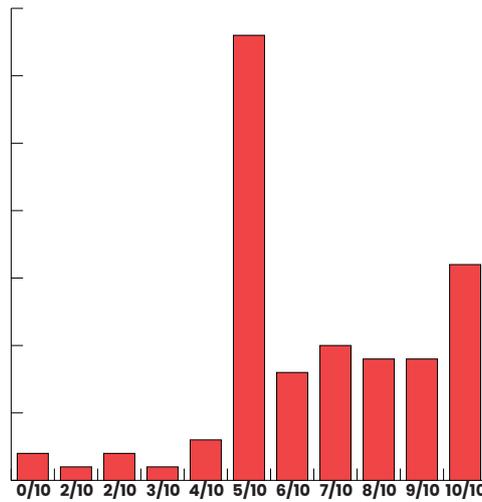
Most parents said their child’s practice happens some time in the afternoon. However, 10% said their child practises before school so it’s always good to suggest this as an option that works for some families.

PRACTICE ENJOYMENT



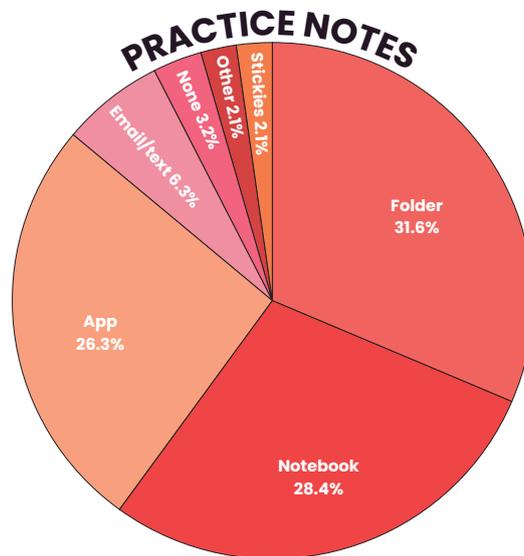
Most parents said their children enjoyed practice at least a bit. Just under 20% of the parents said their children would rate it less than 5 on a scale of 1 – 10.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

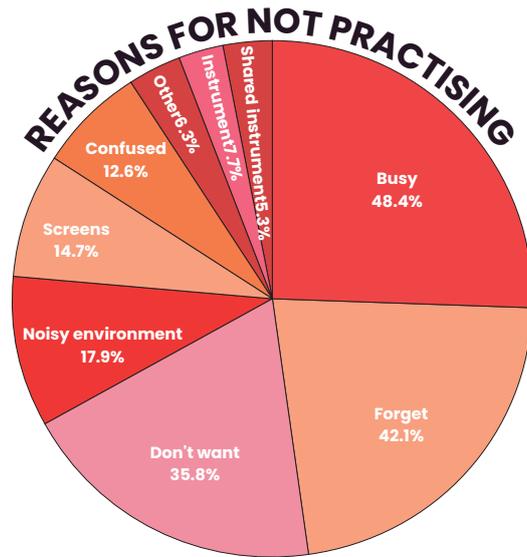


We asked parents whether they considered practice to be more their responsibility or their child's. In the graph above, zero represents the child's responsibility entirely and 10 the parent's responsibility entirely.

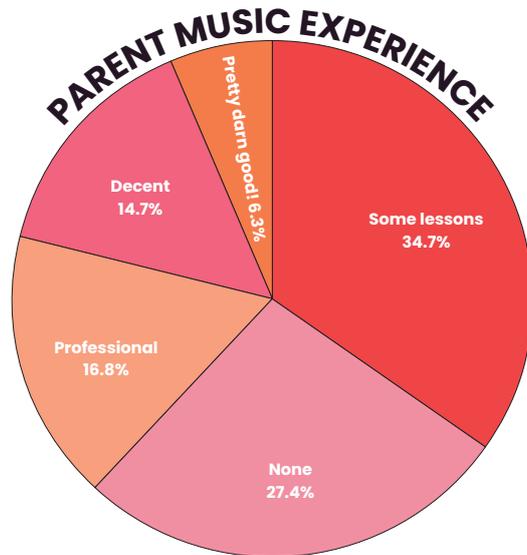
They generally thought it was more on their shoulders than their child's. This correlated with the age of their child too, with more parents of teens saying it was their child's responsibility more than their own. We must add the caveat again here, though, that parents who think practice is entirely the child's responsibility are less likely to have responded to the survey.



The three biggest sources of practice notes from the teacher that were identified by parents were a folder/binder, notebook or a practice app.



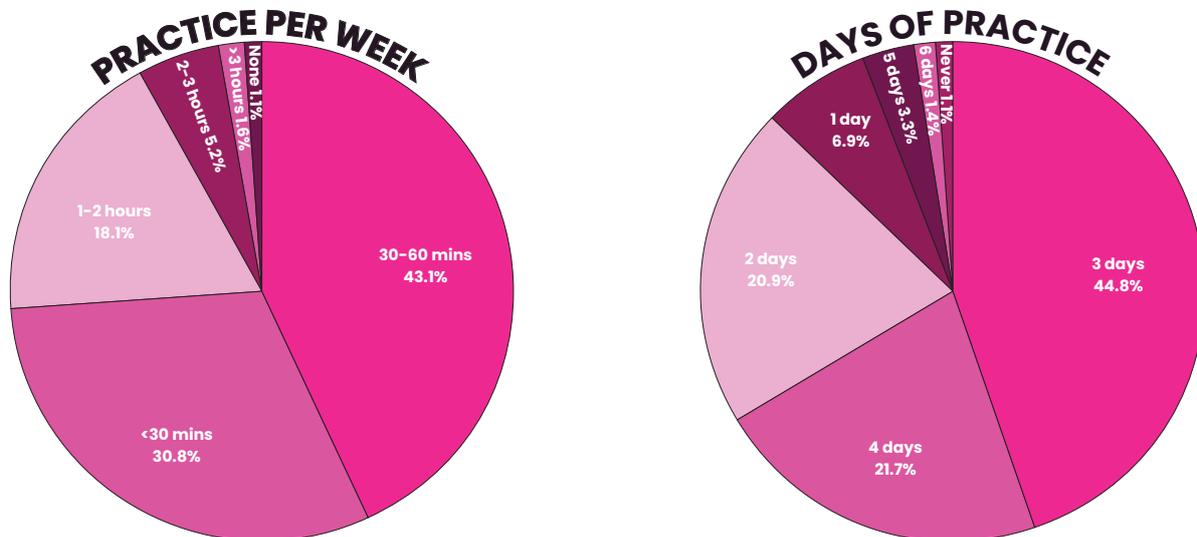
Over 40% of parents admitted that one of the main reasons their child did not practise more was because the parent forgot to remind them. Like the students, a concerning number of parents said their child did not practise because they were confused about what and how to practise.



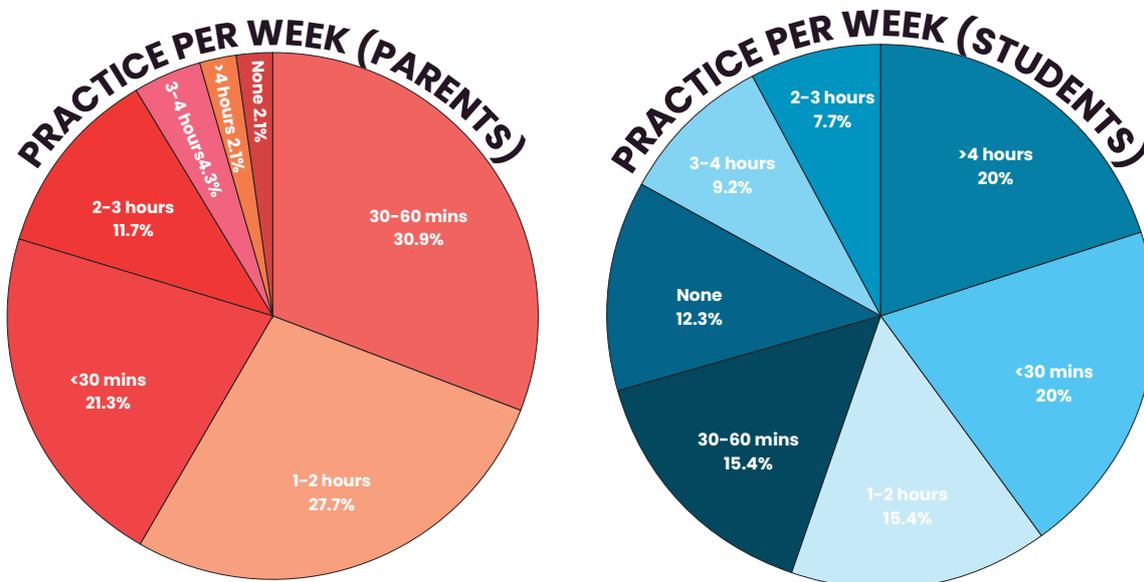
We asked parents about their own experience with music studies so we could look into correlations with the amount of student practice, enjoyment or perceived parent responsibility. None of these correlations were statistically significant.



We asked teachers to estimate their students' total weekly practice amount and how many days their students practise. Teachers were fairly pessimistic about the practice amounts, with 75% estimating that their students practise 60 minutes or less per week.

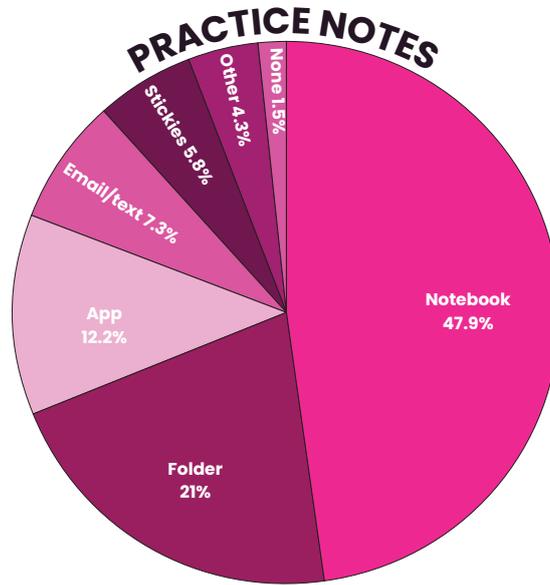


If we compare this to the reports directly from students and parents, they are definitely reporting more steady practice than the teachers estimate. The average minutes teachers guess students practise each week is about 52, but parents reported about 73 minutes and students reported about 97 minutes.

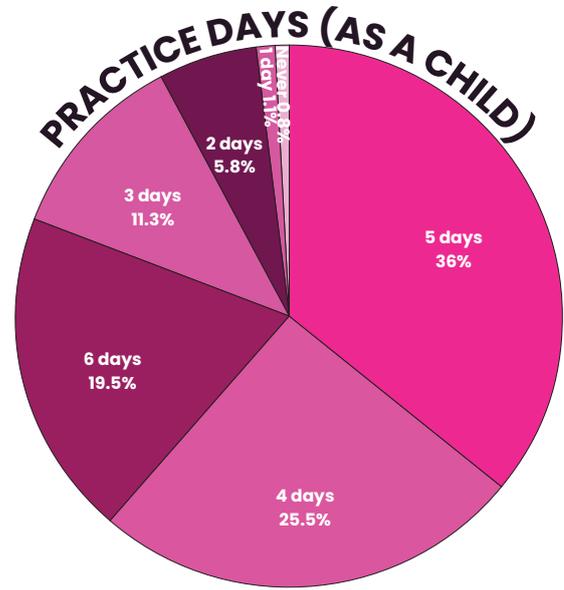
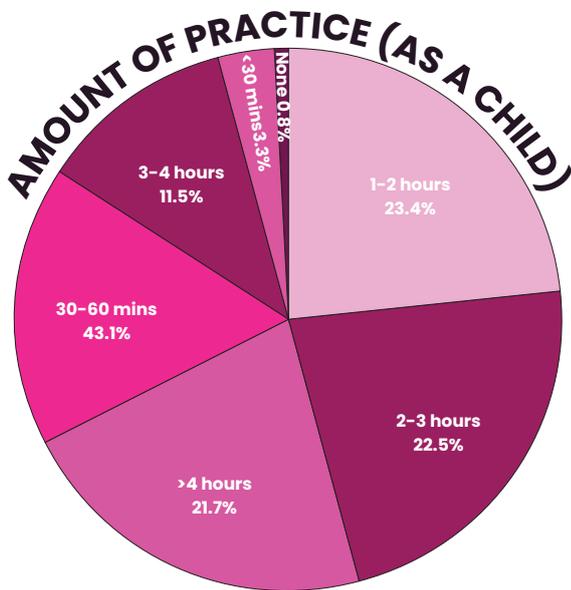


Of course, we have to keep in mind here, too, that the type of parents who completed the survey might be more diligent than average at supporting practice, and the students responding for themselves were generally teenagers and adults.

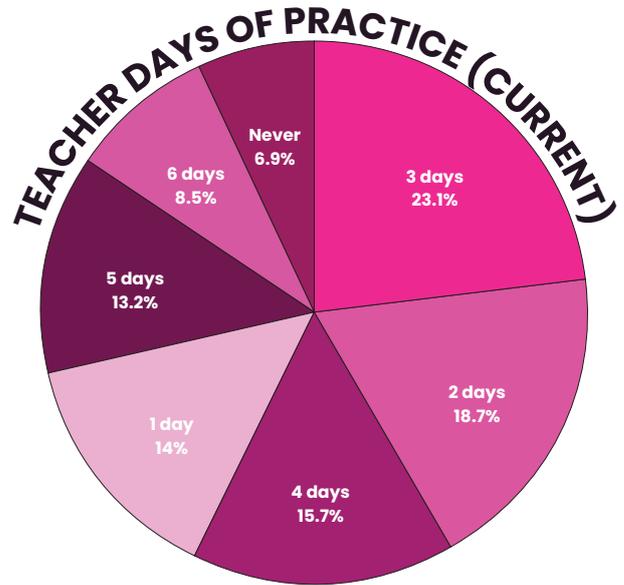
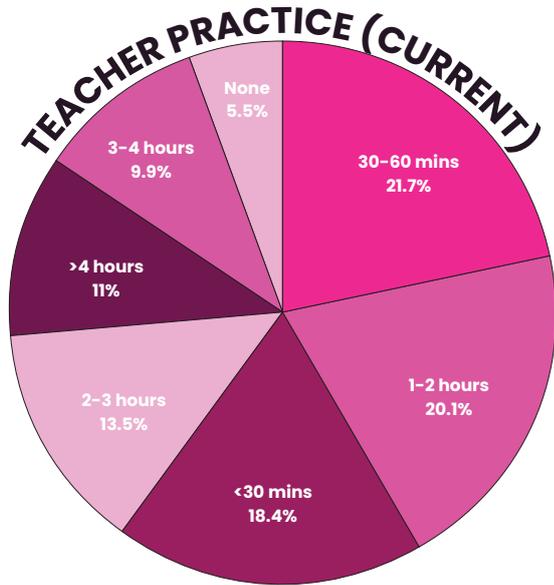
Almost half of the teachers we surveyed were using a notebook to give their students practice notes. Most who reported “other” basically said they used sheets, which I would put in the same category as a folder/binder.



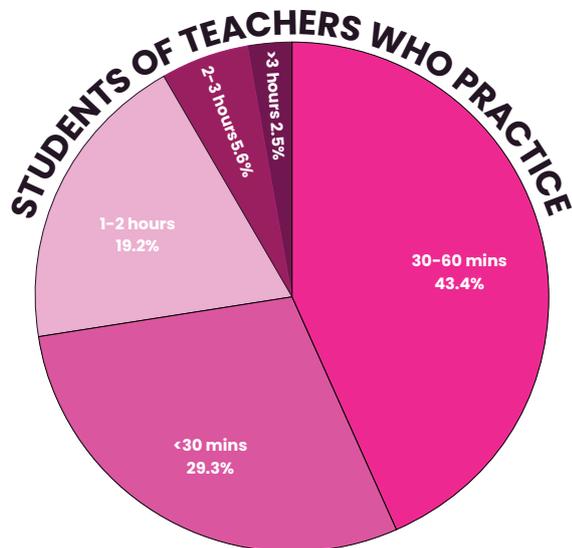
In general, most teachers thought they did a lot more practice when they themselves were children than they think their students do now...not hugely surprising, since they went on to become teachers!



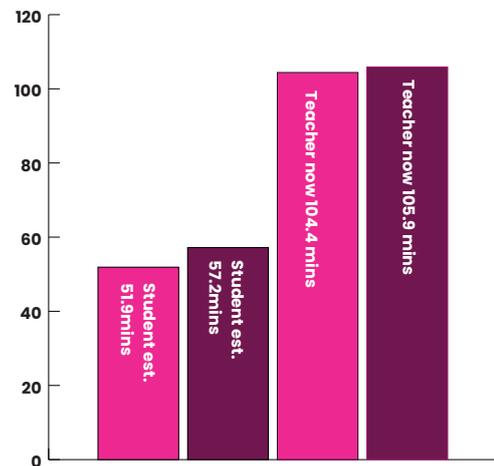
We asked teachers about their own current practice habits, too. Over half the teachers reported that they're still practising an hour or more per week.



Out of curiosity, I separated out those teachers who said they practised 1 hour or more per week to see if their students also practised more than average. On average, they guessed their students did 4 minutes more practice per week vs the total teacher sample.



PAST PRACTICE COMPARISON

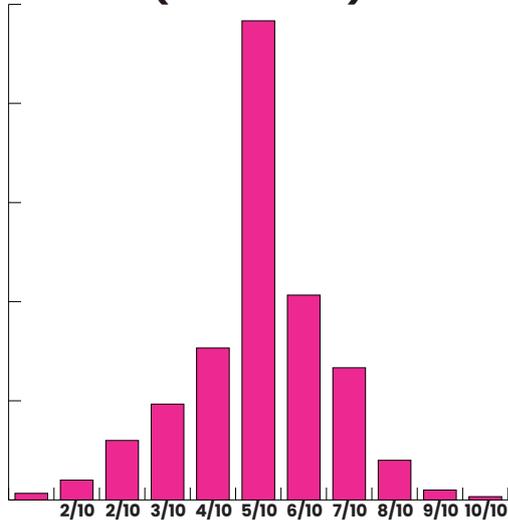


I also looked into the correlations for teachers who reported practising an hour or more each week as a child. The pink in the bar graph above represents the total teacher cohort response, and the burgundy represents the teachers who had practised more as children.

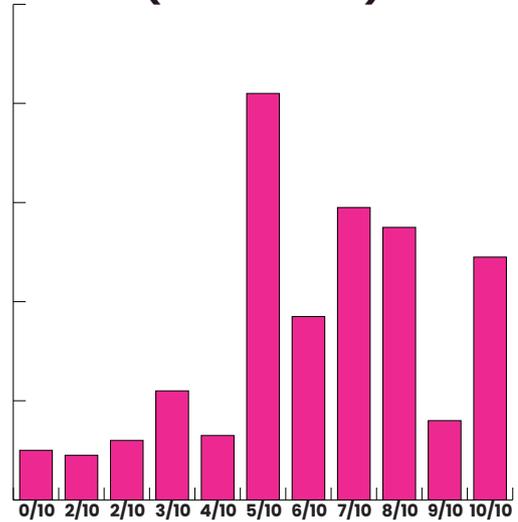
There did seem to be some long-standing effect for those teachers who practised 1 hour or more a week as a child. They reported more practice from their students each week (about 5.7 minutes more) and slightly more personal practice each week, too (about 1.5 minutes).

Most teachers guessed that their students would rate practice 5/10 on the enjoyment scale, but they also said that they enjoyed practice much more than that when they were growing up.

STUDENT PRACTICE ENJOYMENT (ESTIMATE)

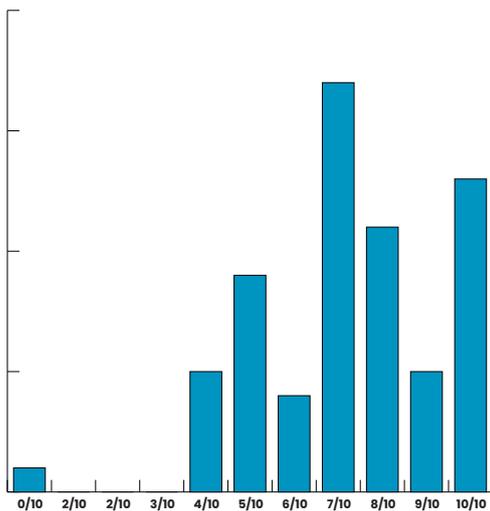


PRACTICE ENJOYMENT (AS A CHILD)



I think it's even more interesting to compare teachers' estimate of their students' practice enjoyment to what parents and students actually reported themselves. Students rated practice as a 7.2 out of 10 and parents thought their kids enjoyed practice about 6.1 out of 10, vs teachers' average rating of 5/10.

PRACTICE ENJOYMENT



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