Get the Most Out Of Your Practice

Warm up with scales. Scales are the building blocks of music. You will actually save time if you warm up with scales.

Try playing your scales with different note values and bowings:

Half notes for developing a long, straight bow

Quarter notes for most playing needs

Eighth notes for speed and flexibility

**Five steps to practicing**

1. **Count and clap.** This is especially useful when learning new rhythms, or when playing with other instruments in orchestra causes you to lose your spot. Repeat until you feel comfortable with this step.
2. **Say the names of the notes.** If you can say it you can play it.
3. **Say the fingerings.** This step goes with step #2. If you can say it you can play it. Repeat until you feel comfortable with this step.
4. **Pluck** the piece you are working on. This is useful if there are tricky slurs, ties or string crossings. Repeat until you feel comfortable with this step.
5. **Play** the piece as written. This is always the final step. Repeat until you feel comfortable with this step.

Music is 90% in your head. If you can think it, you can play it.