

# LISTEN:

## Engaging the brain while singing.

Active listening is a complicated skill we need to develop as singers. It is multi-tasking at the highest level! Here are some ideas of how to engage the brain in a warm-up:

### 1, 1 2 1, 1 2 3 2 1.

Few choirs escape without learning this exercise! First teach them to sing it through together:

The musical notation shows the exercise in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with numbered fingerings below the notes:

- Staff 1: 1 1 2 1 1 2 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 5 4 3 2
- Staff 2: 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 8 8 7 8 8 7
- Staff 3: 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 4 5 6 7
- Staff 4: 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Once they are comfortable singing it through, try throwing some curveballs their way to engage their brains further:

- Replace all the “3s” with a clap, and the “6s” with a stomp.
- Pick two numbers to replace with silence (3 and 6 are good in this exercise)
- Sing the exercise as a round, with each group starting two beats after the previous group.
- Sing the exercise as a round, including clapping / stomping variants.
- Make up your own variants to keep things interesting!

### 3 Song Challenge

Split your room into two groups. One group sings “Twinkle Twinkle”, the other sings the alphabet. Start by having them sing both songs together. Then queue each part one at a time, and have them come in at the equivalent part of the song.

This will require them to keep their own song going in the head while they’re not singing it. Once they’ve mastered this, split them into three parts, and add “Ba Ba Black Sheep”