



Hopefully, as you learn to enjoy the drums, you will find other people who are learning and have fun making music together. As your skills progress, eventually you might even have an opportunity to play with some seasoned musicians or to audition for a band. To give you the best chance for success, I've provided some tips and advice on how to best prepare yourself. Good luck!

Be Prepared

Nothing is more frustrating to other musicians than for a band member to start playing and within the first song, you realize that they aren't prepared and don't really know what's going on. Usually, if you are in a band with your friends or maybe at church, you will be told ahead of time what songs to listen to or learn and be ready to play at the next rehearsal.

It is very disrespectful to the other members of your band and if it becomes a habit, you'll find yourself drumming alone in your bedroom. I always try and take time during the week to learn the material I am expected to play. There are even times when I don't really LIKE the songs I'm having to learn, but I don't want to be unprepared, so I deal with it and learn the songs!

Be Reliable

A good friend of mine likes to say, "The best ABILITY is RELIABILITY!" Basically what that means is that it doesn't matter if you are the most amazing drummer in the world if you don't show up when it's time to play.

This one is kind of a "no-brainer." If people who want you to play with them aren't sure you will show up, then most likely they won't ask you to be their drummer. If you agree to play for someone but then forget to come to practice or you just don't "feel like it," then chances are they won't ask you again. Musicians have a community with each other and they talk about other musicians...who is good, who isn't... if the word gets out that you won't show up when you say you will, you won't have a lot of opportunities to play. Developing and keeping a good reputation is very important!

I'm not the best drummer around, but I get lots of opportunities to play because I am easy to get along with, I show up when I say I will and I am ALWAYS prepared and ready. Doing this earned me a spot in an amazing band (over more qualified drummers) where I play for a few thousand people at each show, and it wasn't because I was the best drummer around.



Have A Good Attitude

No matter what type of work that you choose to do, having a good attitude will open a lot of doors for you. A large part of the fun of being in a band is the joking around and getting to know the other people around you. You look forward to seeing them, usually. If someone in the group is always in a bad mood, it can throw the whole "vibe" off and everyone suffers.

We all have bad days... if you can't be happy and smiling, at least try not to be rude and short with people. If someone asks you, just kindly tell them that you are having a rough day and smile as best you can.

Make The Band Look Good And You'll Look Good

This may sound backwards but it's true. I advise students all the time that the song should come first and not to do anything that will confuse the band or derail the song. Provide a solid foundation, guide the band through the song, but resist the urge to be flashy and "show off." The better the musicians are, the more important this is.

When you deliver a solid drum performance and the band sounds great, you have succeeded. Be a drummer that helps others sound good and helps the band succeed and YOU will succeed. You WILL get noticed, I assure you.