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'Use Your Buzz To Play The Guitar'

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4. I'm too busy

But you're not too busy to complain constantly about the fact that you aren't learning? We make our schedules. It may not seem like that but in the end, it is up to you what to do on your days off from work or school. If you are a busy entrepreneur it is in your hands to put time to relax in your schedule. I strongly suggest reading about time management. It will help you manage your schedule and this can help you in all areas of life. It just comes down to your priorities and what you want most badly.

5. I'm too old.

This is a common concern amongst guitar players, though again it is just an excuse. I had a student say that to me on his first lesson. He was in his late 50's/early 60's. I told him respectfully to cut the crap. As long as he said he was too old, he might as well just give up. He was at my lesson because he wanted to learn, so giving me all of the reasons why he couldn't learn was not going to help him. After a bit of work and patience, he went on to form a band and become the chairman of a national guitar association! Not bad for a guy who started out by trying to tell me that he was too old. So he wasn't too old at all, it was just in his head. Feel the satisfaction of continuing to learn and keep your brain active later in life. Learning a new skill or being open to learning more will give you a new lease on life too. It doesn't have to be hard if you take the right approach, and you can learn at your own pace.

6. I don't have a computer.

Use the library, read books, join an organization... the list goes on and on. If great guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix could learn without a computer, so can you!

7. My fingers are too small.

Two words: Mark Goffeney. Now quit whining!

8. My fingers are too big.

With the risk of overusing him as an example, Hendrix's hands were huge. The difference is that he approached it as a good thing. He realized that it helped him stretch across the frets. What you focus on makes all of the difference.

9. My kids keep me too busy.

Designate 10 minutes where it's 'your time'. They are not holding a gun to your head. You are in control. Stick to your guns, and it will be good not only for your skills, but also your mental health.

10. My friends/family will laugh at me.

Okay, so don't do anything in life because other people might laugh at you. That is your choice.

REVOLUTION IS MY NAME! TURNING AWAY FROM EXCUSES

Every seemingly negative situation can be turned around and used to help your self or other people, although with really bad stuff this can take some time. One of the most important things to do when on your quest to become a successful musician, or successful in any field for that matter, is to lose your excuses. Here are some examples of understandable but weak excuses that are used far too much by people, and how I recommend turning them around.

1. My teacher teaches another style.

I understand that it can be frustrating when you are going to a teacher that focuses around a style that you don't like. If you have decided to stick with that teacher, try and be more open to learning new styles. It makes you a more versatile player, which can lead to more opportunities in your music career and can enable you to jam with more people. If a kickboxer went to lessons but didn't do a jab or kicks with the left leg because he didn't like the style, he might be limiting himself and it is the same when you are closed off to learning new things.

2. There are no teachers in my area

This can be common in smaller towns but just think: If there is no teacher, especially if you are already at a good level, then that gives you a massive opportunity to become the teacher in your town with no competition! If you are starting, it does help to have a good teacher, but if there isn't one you should use this to become disciplined in learning on your own, which will be a benefit to you should you choose to become professional.

3. I don't have enough money

Well right off the bat, that's practise for being a musician! Seriously though, the Internet is full of free resources and if you don't have internet access, your local library will. If you live in an igloo you might have to rely on creativity.

"Watch a video of Mark Goffeney, then quit whining"