

# 30. Disgruntled Band Teacher

(Guy or girl)

1 Everyone wants a solo. Everyone wants to be a star.  
2 Everyone wants to be first chair. But does anyone want to  
3 practice? *No!* These kids must think I'm stupid. I see them put  
4 their instruments in their lockers *every* day. No one takes  
5 them home. Yet, miraculously, when I ask, "Who practiced last  
6 night?" every single hand flies up. Well, I've heard of air guitar  
7 but air trumpet? And trombone? And drums? Give me a  
8 break. These kids are so lazy! And then they get mad at *me*  
9 when they can't figure out how to play a song. Like it's my  
10 fault they don't have a clue what each note means.

11 Don't they understand you can't get better without  
12 practice? Do they really think the hour — let's face it — the  
13 thirty minutes I have with them, since it takes them thirty  
14 minutes to get their instruments out and get in their seats, is  
15 going to make them star players? Would they expect to be a  
16 starter on the basketball team if they never showed up for  
17 practice? Being a quality player takes dedication and practice.  
18 How come everyone understands that when it comes to sports  
19 but no one understands it when it comes to band?

20 And what about forking over a little money, parents? You  
21 think they can be quality players with the crap instruments  
22 you buy them? They can't use a starter horn forever! They  
23 need upgrades! Spend half as much on their instrument as  
24 you do their fancy cell phones or their cell phone bills!

25 Does Johnny's playing get on your nerves? Get over it!  
26 I'm trying to run a *band* here! If you people can't commit,  
27 then get out of my room! If I don't see an instrument go  
28 home with someone today, I'm quitting!