

MAKE PRACTICE SESSIONS COUNT-PART ONE

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The natural tendency in practicing pool is to break the balls and start playing a game. There is a much more productive way to practice. You must liken it to going to the driving range. At the range you can practice every area of your golf game, in pool it is no different. You should never ignore any aspect of your pool game.

The break should be practiced religiously. Find a way to make your break work, it will vary from table to table, but you must get it to work. The idea is to make a ball and get a shot. Practice the break over and over until you get proficient at it, it's the most important shot on the table.

Practice banks and kick shots. Observe the path of the cue ball while banking, especially when the object ball is close to the rail. Adjust your speed and observe how it affects the path of the object ball. The easier you shoot, the wider the bank becomes.

Practice what you don't know. Practice shots that you missed in a recent match. Discover what you did wrong and correct it. Don't settle for sloppy shots. If the object ball went in sloppy, consider it a miss and set it up again. Practice it until it goes in dead center, this will condition you to play well when the game counts. Only try to "cheat" the pockets when it is necessary. Become a shot maker, it will get you out of many a jam. Practice long shots and hard shots.

Use your head (don't hit the cue stick with it:) but think about what you are doing and what you are trying to accomplish. Develop a tough mental attitude. Set goals for yourself and keep track of your progress.

Enjoy every session. If you're not having fun it will be too much like work. For me the game of pool was a love-at-first-sight experience. But as I improved my love for the game grew more and more. I hope it does for you too.