



OBOE

Even if you tune your instrument correctly, there are still some factors that will cause it to play out of tune. There are MANY factors that will affect pitch, but here is a summary of the most common:

FACTOR	AFFECT
Lip Tension	<p>An embouchure that is too tight or "pinching" will cause the pitch to be sharp. Relax your lips, and pull your chin down with your lips still puckered to correct this.</p> <p>An embouchure that is too loose will consistently cause the pitch to be flat. To raise the pitch, firm the lips slightly, and press the corners of your mouth into the reed. Use fast, focused air.</p>
Amount of Reed	<p>Taking too much reed into your mouth and establishing a significant amount of contact between the lip and reed will cause the pitch to be sharp. Stay towards to the tip of the reed to correct this.</p> <p>Taking too little of the reed into your mouth and establishing minimal contact between the lip and the reed will cause the pitch to be flat. Take more reed into your mouth to correct this.</p>
Strength of Reed	<p>A reed that is too hard (difficult to produce sound on) will cause the pitch to be sharp. A reed that is too soft (almost too easy to produce sound on) will cause the pitch to be flat.</p> <p>Aim to play on "medium-soft" reeds. If you have to play on a "medium" strength reed, have your band director adjust it!</p>
Age of Reed	<p>As a reed gets older, the pitch will be sharper. Aim to rotate reeds on a daily basis to extend their life, and retire a reed after it has been played for 10 to 15 hours.</p>
Angle of Instrument	<p>The oboe should be held at a 40 degree angle from the body.</p> <p>If the angle is too large, the overall pitch will be flat.</p> <p>If the angle is too small and close to the body, the overall will be sharp.</p>
Equipment	<p>An instrument that is not in good working order will cause poor pitch overall. Leaking tone holes, bent rods, or instrument misalignment are all signs of an instrument in need of a repair.</p> <p>On an oboe, a pad that is too closed will cause the pitch to play flat. A pad that is too open will cause the pitch to play sharp.</p> <p>Have the instrument checked by an instrument repair shop once a year.</p>
Temperature	<p>Warm air temperature will cause the pitch to be sharp.</p> <p>Cold air temperature will cause the pitch to be flat. For best results, play in a space that is around 72 degrees Fahrenheit.</p>