# Tuning a String Instrument

**Tuning Basics**  
Use big pegs when you are far away from pitch  
Use fine-tuners when you are close to pitch  
Keep playing (or plucking) as you adjust  
Tightening a peg too much can break a string!

**Know Your Strings!**  
Violins from highest to lowest:  
E A D G  
Violas/Cellos from highest to lowest:  
A D G C  
Basses from highest to lowest:  
G D A E

**Fine Tuners**  
Turn clockwise to tighten string and counterclockwise to loosen the string  
Use only for small adjustments  
If tuner is out of threads, re-adjust the big pegs.

**Drones or Tuner?**  
You can use a reference pitch to get close (piano, online drone, etc.)  
- Listen first, the adjust  
- Best practice for developing your ear  
Use a tuner to get your pitch exact  
- Much faster and no question you are in tune  
- Best for fine-tune adjustments

**Big Pegs**  
Turn away (scroll) to tighten the string  
Turn towards you (bridge) to loosen the string  
If peg loses grip and loosens, push in as you tighten  
*you may need “peg compound” to put on the peg to help it stick

**Basses Only**  
Your big pegs are also fine tuners; you can use them for both!