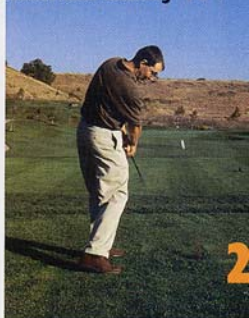
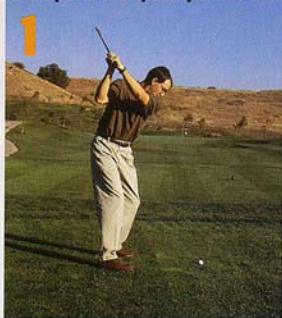
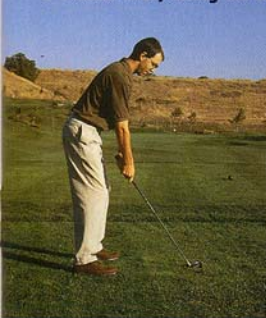


Count "1-2" out loud when you swing. At the top of your backswing say "1" and at impact say "2". Make every swing the same tempo at the speed you feel most comfortable counting "1-2".



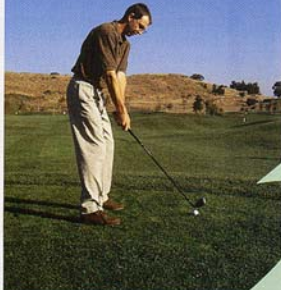
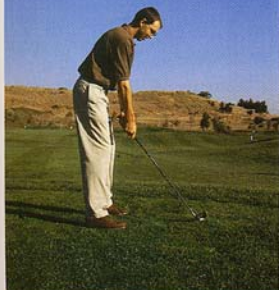
Count "1-2" OUT LOUD to create a good rhythm

When I was playing in the U.S. Junior Championship I counted "1-2" to myself on every shot. For months before the U.S. Junior Championship I practiced counting "1-2" out loud when I was hitting balls. I counted "1" at the top of my backswing and "2" when I made contact with the ball. I counted OUT LOUD so I could hear if I hit the ball at the

same time that I counted "2". I discovered that counting in my head was not as accurate as counting out loud and therefore, I would count out loud whenever I got the chance.

Everyone has their own internal clock. Some are fast like Nick Price and some are slow like Ernie Els or Fred Couples. Whatever speed you feel most comfortable counting "1-2", use it to create the tempo of your swing.

Start the club an inch or so off of the ground to produce a consistent smooth takeaway.



Start the club off the ground to begin a smooth swing

Hovering the club off the ground at the beginning of the swing allows for a smooth takeaway. Jack Nicklaus starts his swing with the club off the ground and has all of his life. He never grounds any club before he begins his swing, including his putter. By keeping the club off the ground the club can always swing back from the ball at the same pace.

When the club begins on the ground there is a chance of the grass snagging the club and the tempo being altered. Start with the club an inch or so off of the ground and take the club back from there. Many players such as Greg Norman, Ernie Els, and Jack Nicklaus have found this to be a great way to begin a consistent smooth swing. 