
TIPS AND TRICKS: TEN FUN WAYS TO LEARN YOUR LINES

1. **Highlight your lines:** With a yellow highlighter, highlight your lines so you do not have to look all through your script to find them. Then highlight the last 3-6 words of the previous speaker's lines with a pink highlighter pen. The lines marked in pink are your cue lines that will trigger what you're supposed to say next as soon as you hear them.
2. **Read your lines out loud!** Grab your script and read your lines aloud to yourself. Always practice your lines out loud. If you only read them silently when you're by yourself, you're not going to be as sharply focused and energized. A great time to do this is just before bed!
3. **Break Your Lines Up When Memorizing:** Try to conquer small parts of your script at a time. It is difficult to memorize all your lines at once. By taking small parts of your script (for example: scene one, scene two etc), you can add lines one at a time until you have your full script memorized.
4. **Write it Out:** Write out your lines repeatedly. This gets the lines in your subconscious memory. To save on paper, you can also type them out, then simply erase and start again.
5. **Write it out; with the other hand:** If you are right-handed, write out your lines with your left hand, and vice versa. By using your less familiar hand, your brain has to think three times as hard about what you are writing. This should be quite a fun and challenging activity!
6. **Recruit friends, other performers and relatives to read lines out loud with you:** Ask the other person to read your script while you rehearse it to them. Ask them to circle parts that you skipped or jumbled the words. Another great way is to set up telephone calls with your fellow actors and run lines back and forth as quickly as you can. Since it's not always easy to physically get together in-between scheduled rehearsals, a phone call fills the bill nicely and can be done at any time that's convenient for both of you.
7. **Electronically record your lines.** Get a recorder, or if you're sophisticated enough record onto your phone, your parents phone, or your computer (and then burn it to a CD). There are two methods to this trick; the first method is to record everyone's lines (including your own) and play the recording wherever you go. Whether you're travelling on the bus, in the car or doing household chores, the repetition of hearing lines over and over will cause them to sink in. The second method is to record everyone else's lines but silently mouth your own lines so as to leave gaps on the recording device. This is a good exercise for not only getting used to hearing verbal cues but also perfecting your delivery time since you have a limited space in which to respond with the correct line. It's like learning the lyrics to a song... the more you listen to it, the better you are at "singing" along with the recording.
8. **Palm Cards:** Another great way to learn your lines is too create some palm cards for yourself. Cut up some cardboard as big as your palm and then use one card for each line of dialogue/paragraph that you have in the play. You could also do this on your computer by selecting you lines and formatting them into columns. Then printing them out and cutting them up into palm sized pieces.
9. **Write your blocking (stage movements) in your script.** Learning your stage blocking (stage movement) at the same time you are learning your lines. If the location permits, when you are practicing by yourself, go through all of the physical movements (sitting, standing, turning, walking) and handling of props. Whatever you are physically doing will help you to associate the lines of dialogue being spoken.
10. **Bite-Sized Pieces.** There's a reason (among many others), for instance, that telephone numbers are written as (123) 456-7891 instead of 1234567891. Small segments are easier to remember than a long, cumbersome string of data. If you have a large paragraph in the play, you will probably need to retype it for study. Divide your paragraph into several short sections (no more than 3 sentences each) that will be easier for your mind to digest. Even this act of retyping is instrumental because of the amount of proofreading you'll be doing to make sure you copied it accurately.