

Steps for Improvising

with your favorite friend or a group of kids who love theatre just as much as you!
If you are improvising solo, just adjust the steps to your needs!

Step 1: Find a Partner

If you are in a group setting, glue yourself to your friend's arm before they can escape! 😊

Step 2: Decide the Situation

This is the fun part! Find a scenario. It can be anything from an everyday problem, to a crazy, way-out scenario. To get you started, here are four examples of a situation you can begin with if you need some help:

1. Students who are lost on the first day of school and can't find their classrooms
2. Pirates whose ship has sunk and they are now stranded on an island
3. Kids who's pet dragon is lost somewhere in their house and they can't find it
4. Actors who have locked their keys in their car minutes before driving off to an audition

Step 3: Assign Characters & Preparation

The characters do not need to have detailed description. That way the actors have the option to be whoever they want to be. This is where you get to make the scene fun!! Here are five examples I thought of that can work as character choices (these don't relate to the four situations listed above—you create your own characters for those, but try to think outside the box!):

1. A ditsy 26-year-old who is obsessed with Disneyland
2. A teenager who is trying to get a driver's license but keeps crashing his parent's car when practicing
3. A video game obsessed ten-year-old who never takes a break
4. An impractical/insane pirate who's ship has been stolen and he's trying to find it (Sound familiar? What do you mean I'm referencing *Pirates of the Caribbean*? Me? Never!)
5. A budding Broadway star who can't get a show

Once you decide who's who, take only a few minutes to prepare.

Step 4: Perform the Improvisation

Use a bare space to perform your improvisation. That means little or no props! You may need to pretend to have the object you need. You can use a chair or two, but usually everything is pretend.

Things to Remember!

SLOWLY PROJECT!!!! In other words, speak LOUDLY AND SLOWLY AS IF EVERYONE IN YOUR AUDIENCE IS HARD OF HEARING. YOUR AUDIENCE WANTS TO HEAR YOU! At the same time, be sure not to scream or yell (unless that's what your character does.) Also, do not talk too slowly (again, unless that is your character) because it can quickly result in a bored, unhappy audience.

Cheat Out! (stage term that means position yourself towards the audience) Oh my goodness, I cannot think of a more important thing to remember! Sometimes as actors we tend to get carried away with what we are doing, and we turn our backs or heads away from the audience. But then they can't hear or see us, and hilarious facial expressions you come up with go unnoticed. So keep yourself facing front or at least at a ¼ degree angle, even when conversing with fellow thespians. That way we HEAR you and SEE you!

Step 5: Critique Each Improvisation

Have someone, a parent, friend, neighbor, brother, sister, or whomever, tell you whether you stayed in character, projected, cheated out, listened and responded to one another accordingly, and whether the character was believable. Ask them what they liked best, and what needed to be improved.

Now get to it!! Have a crazy awesome time improvising!

-A kid who likes to shimmer, shine, sparkle and glimmer!

