



MEMORIZING LINES



There is no sugar coating it—memorizing lines is hard work. There are no short cuts. If you are auditioning for a role in a play, you have to be willing to put in the effort to learn your lines.

Repeating your lines aloud is one of the best ways to memorize your lines because it uses three different types of memory.

You are looking at the line to read it, so it employs your **visual memory.**

You are physically saying the words, so you are developing **muscle memory.**

You are hearing the line as you say it, so you are engaging your **auditory memory.**

It might not be glamorous, but repetition is the key. It's important to develop a technique of repetition that works for you.

FOR STARTERS, TRY THIS PROCEDURE

Part One

- > Find your character's first line of dialogue and read it aloud. Repeat until you've learned it.
- > Close the script and say the line aloud. Repeat.
- > Returning to your script, read the second line aloud. Repeat until you've learned it.
- > Close the script and say the first and second lines aloud. Repeat.
- > Returning to your script, read the third line aloud. Repeat until you've learned it.
- > Close the script and say the first, second and third lines aloud. Repeat.
- > Continue the process, alternating between reading the next line until it's learned, then saying it by memory with the other lines you've learned until you've reached the end of the scene.
- > For good measure, repeat all the lines of the scene once more by memory.

Part Two

- > Now, find a partner (or partners) to read the lines of all the other characters.
- > With your partner reading the other parts, say all the lines of the scene by memory.
- > Have your partner note any mistakes in wording you've made. Study those lines and say them aloud a few times to correct the mistakes.
- > Now, do the scene with your partner again.
- > Repeat, this time saying the lines as quickly as you can. If you make a mistake, start over at the beginning of the scene. Continue to do this until you can reach the end of the scene.

You should now have a strong memorization of the lines in this scene. Move on to the next scene and repeat the process above.

Remember to also practice the lines you've already learned every day, so your line memory will remain sharp.