

Acting Skills

Improving your acting skills can help in any situation where there is an audience. Think about what you are trying to show and how you are trying to show it.

Facial Expressions

Show the **thoughts, feelings and emotions** of the characters you are portraying. Make them larger than life so the audience can see what you are doing, especially if they are a long way back.



Voice

Hold an audience's attention by making yourself interesting to listen to. Speak slower and louder than normal using **pauses, emphasis and variety in tone, pitch, rhythm, and volume**. You need a stage voice which is clear for the audience.



Gesture

Make your performance visually interesting. The types of gestures you use; aggressive, authoritative, nervous or exaggerated will send messages to the audience about your character's personality, mood and situation.



Stance

The way you hold your posture on stage will portray your character's age, personality and mood. Your character's stance may change according to what situations they are in.



Reacting

The audience is always looking at you, even when you're not speaking. You are not on the radio, so show how your character is reacting to what others are saying and doing through use of **body language and facial expression**.



Movement

The audience will get a sense of your relationship with other characters by how close you are standing to them and the direction you are facing. In your scene decide who should be dominating the space. Hovering by the door for example, may show that you can't wait to leave!



Levels

Use **levels** to help indicate status. One character may be on a higher piece of staging or platform, or it may simply be that one character is standing and another is sitting. It is usually easier to play the dominant, more powerful character if they are on a higher level.



Motivation

Research the text to identify your character's **thoughts, feelings and emotions**. Understanding your character's motivation will help you give a believable and realistic performance.

