



— THE —  
**SERIOUS**  
ACTOR'S LINE LEARNING  
**TOOL KIT**

**StandBy Method Acting Studio**

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Designed by [WhistleDesignStudio.com](http://WhistleDesignStudio.com)



# HELLO ACTOR,

*Here is your line learning tool kit. Treat this as your bible; you can leave out the praying bit though as you are going to nail these lines once and for all without stressing yourself into oblivion.*

*There are so many actors who struggle with this process, you're not the only one. Your line learning tool kit is going to help you nail this process so it becomes second nature to you. You don't need to dread it anymore, you don't need to hide your script away in a dark place never to be found again; you are going to grow to enjoy learning lines.*

*I have written for you all the tried and tested methods I've used myself. I now have only one method for learning lines and that is the right way for me. You are going to find the right way for you too but you **CAN NOT LEAVE IT TILL THE LAST MINUTE!! NOOOO WAY**  
JOSE*

## Why Louise?

I quite enjoy working myself into a frenzied panic and working up a stress induced sweat in rehearsals.

**NO you do not - or you would not be reading your line learning tool kit with great anticipation.**

Let's get one thing straight, we **HAVE** to learn the lines - there are no two ways about it. We all have our process and methods and that's fine, however you must commit to the role and yourself by making a conscious effort to learn the lines as soon as you receive your script. If not you sell yourself short; you don't give your best portrayal of your role because you're still worrying about the lines and that has **NOTHING** to do with the life of the character.

Lee Strasberg once said "**whatever you do, learn the lines**".

Tough love talk over with, I just really, really want you to feel confident!

*Are you ready? Here we go...*



# THE TOOLS

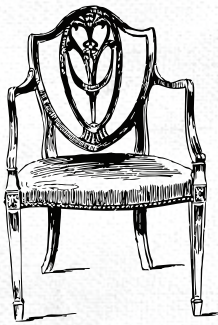
#1



**Clear your head of any stress, tension or pressure.**

These are counter-productive & make the process more difficult. Using a form of relaxation can help with this. Listening to relaxing music may help.

#2



**It's all about the place. Free yourself of distractions.**

I love learning my lines out in the open in the sun. Bit of a problem in winter I know. Find yourself a place to learn your lines where you feel happy and content.

#3



**Turn your phone OFF.**

Facebook won't go into melt down because you're not on it for a moment, snapchat won't disappear, Twitter won't fly off. All these things will still be there when your phone goes back on.

#4



**Grab yourself a timer and set yourself a realistic amount of time to learn some lines when you have read through these tools and chosen the best ones for you.**

Notice I don't say all. The worst thing you can try to do is cram them all in at once.



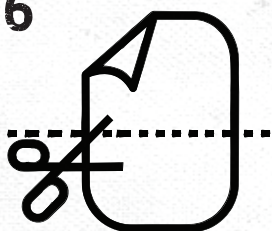
#5



**Read the scene you're working on a few times. Acquaint yourself with it.**

Yep we're not jumping into line learning straight away, we need to warm ourselves up. Think of it like being at the gym, you wouldn't go straight into 150kg deadlifts without a warm up because you can do damage. The same principle applies with line learning.

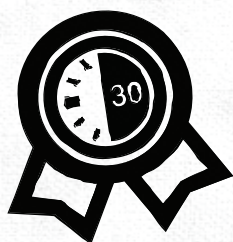
#6



**Break down the learning into units (chunks) that feel right to you.**

E.g half a page may be classed as a chunk.

#7



**Set yourself achievable goals.**

e.g. learn two units of lines in 30 minutes.

#8



**Go through your lines and find the thought process.**

What sparks your character to say these words? What are they actually thinking about? Are there any patterns you notice?

#9



**Circle, underline or highlight the cue line or word in the last line said to you**

– so not in your line – that makes you say your line. This will develop your listening skills.



#10



Find the cue line or word that makes you say the next line or words in your monologue/dialogue.

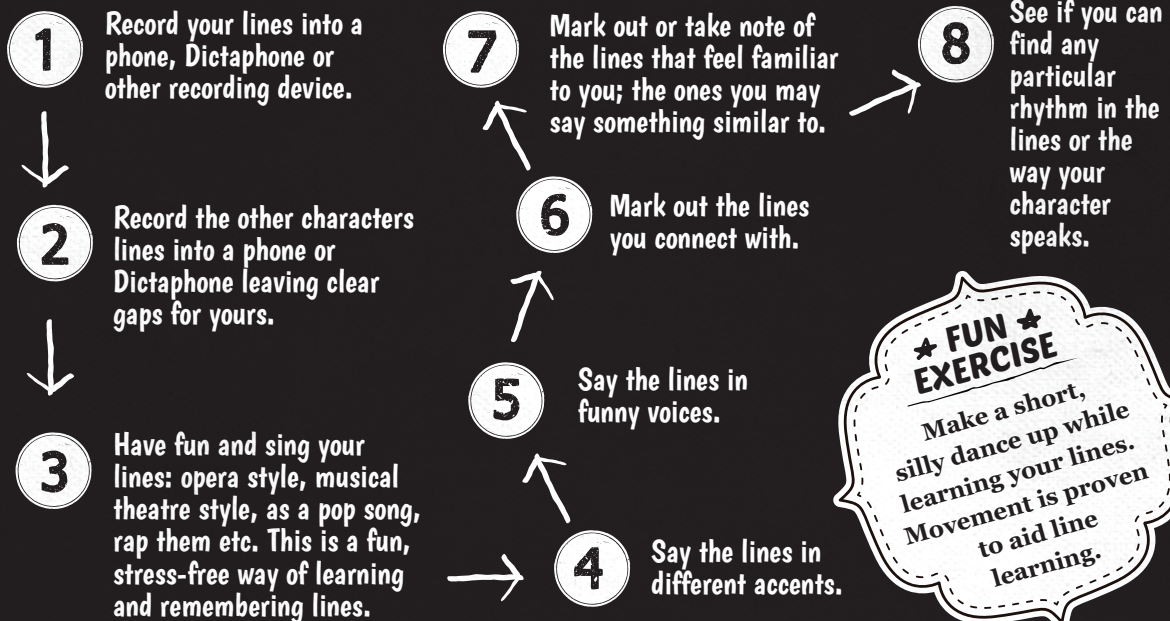
#11



Read back through the scene or the first chunk now you have highlighted the cue lines/words.

Do this as many times as feels right for you.

OK NOW WE HAVE A FEW OPTIONS AND I SUGGEST TRYING THEM ALL OUT TO SEE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU



“

What you're doing is becoming familiar with your lines before you start actively learning them. Think of it being like a first date, you wouldn't say I love you, you'd familiarise yourself with the person, you'd have fun. You are having fun with your lines and "getting to know them". You haven't set your timer yet and you haven't tried to learn any yet; you are making friends with your lines so the two of you will eventually become compatible!

”



#12



**Pop an asteric or mark out the lines you really like and say these aloud.**

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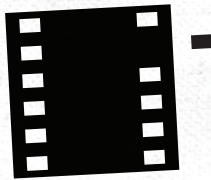
#13



**Whisper your lines to yourself and say aloud the other characters lines.**

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#14



**Take the scene out of context**

- pretend you're having to tell a story to a group of nursery children whose imagination you have to engage. Say your lines to them as if it were an exciting story.

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#15



**Set yourself a goal.**

e.g to learn two chunks/units in 30 minutes.

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#16



**Set your timer.**

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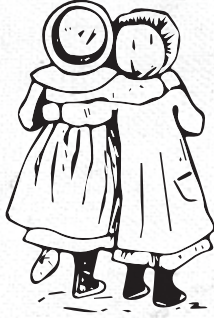
#17



**Now begin memorising your lines and don't stop until you hear the timer go off.**



#18



If you have someone who is willing to read the other lines who can prompt you or go over them with you, ask this person once your timer has stopped.

#19



No one to help you? No probs, walk around saying your lines aloud.

Moving is scientifically proven to help you get them firm in your mind.

#20



Have you learnt the chunks you wanted to? No? that's ok, go back over the steps that really worked for you.

**YES!**

WELL DONE. NOW STOP.  
DON'T DO ANYMORE. YOU HAVE ACHIEVED YOUR  
TARGET GO AND HAVE A BREAK, UNLESS YOU ARE  
IN FLOW AND WANT TO DO MORE. IF YOU'RE IN  
FLOW KEEP AT IT UNTIL YOU GET TIRED.



# LOUISE'S TOP TIPS

## **My biggest tip to you is to do little often.**

*Wake up 10 minutes earlier to look at your lines or use some of the tools in your tool kit.*

*Look at your lines when you go to the toilet.*

*Look at your lines for 10 minutes whilst in bed.*

*Go over them while washing the pots, making your bed, doing the ironing, on the bus, in the car etc.*

*My second biggest tip is to schedule in time when you are going to go through them. I recommend three times a week to do these exercise's. Time isn't an excuse, everyone has 24 hours in a day. If you were going to get paid £1,000 every time you learnt a chunk you'd be sure to do it, you need to make time, you owe it to yourself, the production and the other actors. If rewards work, reward yourself after you have learnt a section, a scene, an act etc.*

*Another firm favourite of mine is to mark out in the script where I am paraphrasing. I then concentrate on this section till I have got it right.*

**FUN EXERCISE**  
Learn your lines to the melody of your favourite song.

#21



**This is a biggie.  
Make sure you understand  
why you're saying the lines.**

*If you don't that may be why they're not sinking in.*

#22



**Look up the meaning of any words you don't understand.**



How good is your memory?

Check it out on:



[www.luminosity.com](http://www.luminosity.com)



There are a lots of fun and free daily exercises to help improve your memory.

To help your short term memory improve, which will aid line learning, each morning recall what you had for tea 2 days ago.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**You have learnt a much more effective way to learn lines.**

**You don't have to use all the tools in your tool kit.  
Use the ones that resonate with you.**





StandBy Method Acting Studio was founded in 2010 by professional actress Louise O'Leary.

**StandBy's mission is to train people to become professional actors. StandBy trains actors in a technique called "Method Acting", which has found notoriety among Oscar winners.**

StandBy helps all its students become more aware of themselves in order to be able to understand the human condition to a greater degree and to improve acting ability to the highest of standards.

StandBy teaches it's students the art of discipline and offers in depth, high quality and effective actor training to ensure every person who walks through the doors is fully equipped for the acting industry and is going to stand the best chance of succeeding,

StandBy's studios are ran in a positive, encouraging environment in which mistakes are welcomed.

StandBy's tutors are Louise O'Leary (founder) and Simon Hanna. StandBy Method Acting Studio has the support of Hollywood actor Stephen Graham (star of Boardwalk Empire).

StandBy's founder, Louise has appeared on BBC Radio Sheffield, Sheffield Live, The Sheffield Telegraph and Sheffield Star to give her expertise on Method acting and is the author of 45 essential acting tips to kick start your career. Louise has also appeared in Hello magazine as part of her professional acting work. Simon Hanna has appeared in many TV productions more notably on ITV and Channel 4.



**StandBy has supported many actors with their craft, talent and careers.**  
You can read StandBy's weekly blog at <http://www.standbymethod.com/category/news/>



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★★★★★ **Coming soon** ★★★★★

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