

Alliance Theatre

institute

Improv Games for Middle School

Compiled by Katie Causey, Teaching Artist

Small Groups

The strategies below are great for in-person small groups. Try them at home!

Word at a Time Story

Tell a story one word at a time with your group. Challenge yourselves to have a beginning, middle and end as well as a main character.

Questions Only

Do a scene with your partner. Each line the improvisers say must be a question. If they say a statement they are out and the next person enters and starts a new scene with the winner of the last round.

Park Bench

Place two chairs together to create a makeshift park bench. One person sits on the bench and a second person sits next to them. The newest person to sit must provide a reason for the first person to get off the bench. They are not allowed to ask, "will you get off the bench" and they are also not allowed to physically push the person off the bench. Once the person gets off the bench the second person shifts over and a new person appears attempting to get the current bench sitter off of the bench.

This game cycles so play multiple rounds. Challenge yourself to discover new ways to get the person off the bench both positive and negative. Remember to follow the improv rule of "yes and" and react accordingly to the person trying to get you off the bench. If you stay on the bench, the game stops.

Digital

The strategies below are great for virtual hangouts. Try them in your favorite video meeting space!

Good Bad Worse

Pick three improvisers to participate in this game. Assign each of them to be either Good Advice, Bad Advice or Worse Advice. Once they have been assigned the other members of the group raise their hands and ask Good, Bad and Worse for advice on various topics. If you are one of the three, challenge yourself to create a character to go along with the type of advice you give. If you are asking questions, challenge yourself to ask specific questions that require a detailed response, not just a yes or no.

Charades

Split your group into two teams. Create rules for the types of words picked for charades (must have at least 3 plays, 2 movies and 1 TV show etc.). Split each group into break out conferences. Have the groups choose their words. Once they have chosen their words they can send a chat to the host with their selections. Everyone comes back to the main chat and the games being. The host will be in charge of the timer and delivering the words to the improviser participating.

Voice Over

Pull up a video clip on YouTube of a scene from a movie, TV show or cartoon. Assign two people to voice over the characters in the scene while it plays with the volume down. Try the same scene multiple times with different improvisers to see how many different scenarios you can create.