

## **How to Memorize Your Lines**

First of all there is no magical formula. It takes times, consistency, and work. However, there are a few steps you can take to help you get it done and help make your lines stick.

Here they are –

1. Read the entire script **MORE THAN ONCE!** You need to do this to familiarize yourself with the story. Look at the story from a different angle each time you read it. Read it straight through without any specific angle, from the perspective of your character, from the perspective of a different character, and from the perspective of the audience. Make notes of what scenes your character is in, what their role is in the story, and how they may speak.
2. Take your script with you **EVERYWHERE!** You never know when you'll get even just a few minutes to pull it out and memorize a couple of lines. When I was in college I would take a printed copy of my monologue(s) with me to my job and look at in between helping customers and on my breaks. Every little moment is precious and can help you if you simply find ways to take advantage of them.
3. Read it **ALoud**. Especially read your characters dialogue out loud to get their words in your mouth. You need to start early building the muscle memory in your mouth and your brain at the same time.
4. Break it down. Memorize a scene at a time, a section at a time, or a beat at a time. Then stack them together – beat by beat, section by section, and scene by scene. Soon you'll have it put together like a big puzzle.
5. Say your lines out loud. You can expect a dancer or a musician to rehearse the dance or music in their heads and get it right. They have to go through the choreography and play the music. You have to say your lines out loud. Even if you're alone, or your neighbor or roommate(s) can hear you, **SAY** them out loud any way! Do it in your room, in your car, anywhere you feel safe and comfortable and have even a few minutes to run your lines with yourself.
6. Run them with someone reading from the script. Be sure to let them know to **ONLY** give you a line when you specifically call for it by saying, "Line." You have to trust yourself and give yourself a moment to let your muscle memory to kick in. If they feed you a line without you asking then you're basically having them help you push the barbell up without actually spotting you.

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