

The Ten Improv Rules

1. **Start with a YES and see where that takes you.**

Saying “no” grinds invention, innovation (and improv) to a screeching halt. saying YES reminds you to respect what your partner has created and to start from an open-minded place.

2. **Add new information.**

The second rule of improve is to not only say YES, say YES, AND. In improv, you agree and then add something of your own. If your partner starts with, “I can’t believe it’s so hot in here,” and you just say “Yeah...” the skit has stalled. But if you respond with, “What did you expect? We’re in hell!” things keep moving forward.

3. **Don’t ask questions, MAKE STATEMENTS.**

Whatever the problem, be part of the solution. Don’t just sit around raising questions and pointing out obstacles. Instead of saying, “Where are we?” make a statement like “Here we are in Spain, Dracula.”

4. **Don’t block someone else’s idea.**

Once an actor introduces something into the scene, play it out.

5. **Bring the Energy**

6. **Change, Change, Change!**

7. **Exaggerate**

For humorous scenes, take choices to the ninth degree

8. **Listen**

Pay attention to what the other actors are saying and respond to them rather than just making up what you want

9. **Take Risk**

Acting involves being silly, looking ridiculous and tapping into emotions and vulnerability.

10. **THERE ARE NO MISTAKES only OPPORTUNITIES.**

The next big laugh is just around the corner, as well as beautiful happy accidents.