



# Improv Basics

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*The Second City<sup>®</sup>*

# Some Guiding Principles



## BE PRESENT

### **Yes, and...**

Whatever you determine, that is now **the truth**, and the foundation of the world that you live in

### **Make your partner look good**

A good general rule for life, but let things happen and **show support** to create a world with one another

## MIRROR

### **Act/React**

The only important thing is the thing that's right in front of you-- **be present**, not thinking about what you're going to say, where you want to take a scene, what you think will be funny

**Read the person** that you're with and being a mirror (mimicking is the most basic form of building relationship and rapport)

## PLAY

### **Be truthful, be vulnerable**

Your first authentic reaction will move the scene and the story along, and even things that you might not *think* will be funny, will contribute to what you and your partner create

### **There are no mistakes**

It's improv, *these* aren't even "rules," but guiding principles!

1 Be Present

2 Mirror

3 Play

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# Be Present!



## Whoosh, Bang, Boing

*First, circle up...*

**Whoosh:** passes to the person next to you

**Bang:** reverses the direction

**Boing:** Skips the person next to you

**Pow!:** passes to the person that you point to

# Mirror!



## Monkey See, Monkey Do....

*Back into circles!*

**The first person starts by making a noise with an accompanying action** with the person to their right watching carefully

**The person next to them then does their best impression** of the person who they watched make the noise/action and turns to the person to *their* right to “pass” the noise/action

**We then rotate around the circle with a new person/action** and make our way around the circle, each time starting with a new sound and action

# Play!



## Name a Place That's **Old**

*Stand along the back wall in a line*

One by one (as you're ready/willing), **step into the open space and place an object** into the space, describing where it is and what it looks like

After we fill a number of objects into the space, **2 people will join the scene and say 3 lines between them** (person A, person B, person A)

**Applaud**, and start a new scene!

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