

First Line Improv



A fun Oral
Language /
Drama Game

First Line Impros



"I feel
sorry for
you"

First Line Impros



"Is it the
measles?"

First Line Impros



"Can you
lend me
€10?"

First Line Impros



"I've just
lost mum's
purse"

First Line Impros



"I beg your
pardon?"

First Line Impros



"I saw you
hit my little
brother"

First Line Impros



"I've had it
up to here
with you"

First Line Impros



"Sorry is
just a
word"

First Line Improv



“Grow up
and act
your age”

First Line Improv



“I always knew
this would
happen”

First Line Improv



“Stop that
at once”

First Line Improv



“It’s just
not fair”

First Line Improv



"How come
you never
pick me?"

First Line Improv



"Nobody in
this house
understands
me"

First Line Improv



"Why are you
always picking
on me?"

First Line Improv



"Take out
that nose
stud now"

First Line Improv



"You did it
again,
didn't you?"

First Line Improv



"But please,
mum"
"I said no"

First Line Improv



"Can you
keep a
secret?"

First Line Improv



"Why do
you give up
so easily?"

First Line Impros



“Don’t Keep
going on
about it”

First Line Impros



“Right, I’ve
caught you
now”

First Line Impros



“You never
listen to
me”

First Line Impros



“Get out of
that bed
immediately”

First Line Impros



"Please
don't"

First Line Impros



"You have
no
manners"

First Line Impros



"You're
going to ruin
everything"

First Line Impros



"I'm sorry to
have to tell
you but ..."

First Line Improv



“Would you
mind
repeating that
remark?”

First Line Improv



“Look, just
snap out of
it”

First Line Improv



“Please don’t
tell him that
I told you”

First Line Improv



“What’s
going on
here?”

First Line Improv



"You've been
talking about
me behind my
back"

First Line Improv



"You'll never
guess what
happened to
Jim"

First Line Improv



"You're
just too
chicken"

First Line Improv



"I've a
terrible
tummy pain
this morning"

First Line Improv



"I don't want
to go to school
today"

First Line Improv



"I feel
sorry for
you"

First Line Improv



"What can I
do, I can't pay
the money
back"

First Line Improv



"It was
supposed to
be a secret"

First Line Improv



“OK, you
need to
hear this”

First Line Improv



“Not so
brave now,
are you?”

First Line Improv



“What’s the
matter with
you today?”

First Line Improv



“Oh no,
here she
comes”

First Line Improv



"You can't
tell
teacher"

First Line Improv



"But she
forced me
to"

First Line Improv



"I can
sneak out
at 10pm"

First Line Improv



"That's my
watch you're
wearing"

First Line Improv



“Do I have
to?”

First Line Improv



“Just take
it and run”

First Line Impros

The following cards can be used for developing improvisation in the classroom. The line given on the card should be the opening line in the improvisation. The line should suggest to the pupils the scenario for the improvisation. It should also suggest who the characters in the improvisation might be. This activity could be done in pairs or small groups of 3/4. The rest of the class acts as the audience.

Each group of pupils randomly selects one of the cards for the improvisation. I had a rule that you could put a card back if you didn't like it and choose another, but you then had to stick with the second choice – this made pupils really think about putting back a card. The pupils could prepare the improvisation in advance to start, but as they become more proficient, they could then just make it up "on the spot". It may help to set a time limit on the improvisation as some groups will need to be curtailed while others may need to be encouraged to keep the conversation going a little longer.

The improvisations don't really need any special equipment or props – if necessary you can "make do" with whatever is in the classroom. All that is really needed is a space to perform the improvisation.

The aim of the improvisation should be on getting a conversation going and the ability of the group of pupils to "think on their feet" in reacting to what the others are saying. The aim should be the development of fluency of thought and speech and the ability of the pupils to speak confidently and in character. The focus should also be on the elements of drama – setting, characters, use of voice, facial expression, gesture, body posture, tension/conflict etc.

Pupils may need to be reminded that you want to hear them speak as they act out the scenario, so it will not work if they just laugh their way through the improvisation.

Most of all, this improvisation game should be fun!

For Your Information

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Kind regards, Seomra Ranga

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