

## SOME WARM-UP EXERCISES BEFORE READING

Going round the circle saying the alphabet or counting, to encourage picking up cues quickly, in 1s, 2s or whatever

Adding a feeling /tone of voice to the number or letter.

Tongue twisters, then adding feeling/changing speed

Short line of dialogue eg what are you doing?/Yes I suppose so - each person with a different tone/emphasis/pitch etc giving different meaning. New sentence when possibilities seem to be exhausted

Crazy names - use own name with a descriptive word eg. Cool Colin, Naughty Nina (David Farmer)

More name craziness - use both initials and go round the circle telling the group something you 'found on the way here', eg Sara Gray = soggy grapes. Doesn't have to be brilliant, just quick thinking

And still more - make up an imaginary hobby with your initials or someone else's, eg Sara Gray = stealing goats/sock gathering etc (Anna Scher)

With the person next to you tell them 3 true things about yourself and then swap over. Each partner introduces their friend, tells the group 2 of the things and makes up a lie. Can the group guess which is the lie? (this one takes a bit longer but quite good if it's a short/one act play to come (David Farmer)

Radio shuffle. Stand in the centre of the group , you are the radio dial and whenever you point to someone they improvise a snippet from a radio broadcast, can start mid sentence. You move the dial to different stations (pointing at different people) so lots of changes. Most of us are quite keen radio listeners so that one probably better with adults anyway. Quick changes are fun. (Jessica Swale)

Just a Minute (half minute/10 seconds) talking fluently about any subject they are given

One word stories round the circle. Can be as silly as you like so long as it hangs together in sentences..

The world's greatest sandwich has.... Go round the circle, remembering previous ones and adding own at end. Can do it together as a chant, keep up the pace.

This morning I..... go round the circle finishing the sentence (making it as as wild/silly/ordinary as you like)

In pairs take a page or 2 of script from the play to be read and just work on it for a few minutes to get a sense of the rhythm of the text for timing cues. Unnecessary long pauses are death to a play

Job moans. Everyone given the name of a job and work round the circle having a good moan about it for 20/30 seconds. Can do the reverse and say why you love the job instead