

LINE LIFTING – Cold Reading

The RATCHET TECHNIQUE - 2016

LINE LIFTING - RATCHETING:

*“Reading with disciplined eye control while staying present and **not getting lost in the text.**”*

Powerful cold reading comes from being able to give a *performance level* read while maintaining relationship and eye contact with your scene partner, thus keeping you more *in* the scene. Upon mastering this skill, you’ll be delivering copy at an above average level—after reading the scene just one time. With practice, your cold reads will become as convincing as your best *prepared* reads.

EXERCISE:

Get a hold of *anything* to read (**begin with this explanation** - then a book, magazine, bible, monologue, script, etc.), preferably a script or some actual sides. Place yourself in front of a mirror and look directly into the reflection of your own eyes. Grab your chosen text and hold it out in front of your chest just below your chin so you can read it and see your eyes (not blocking your face). *Get comfortable with this posture... you’ll be spending quite a bit of time with it.*

Look down at your text, take in as much as you feel confident with and pick up a few words. Now look up at the mirror and catch your eyes. (Be careful not to move your entire head up and down—just your eyes.) Once you have eye contact with yourself, say the line you just picked up out loud. Sustain this moment as if you were listening to a response line. This moment is your *“white line”* space. It’s your attitude and intention space. It’s where the *“real acting moments”* takes place!

Drop your eyes back down to the material and grab the next few words (or as much of the line as you can). Look back up, make direct eye contact and recite the next part of the text.

Continue to do this for at least 3-5 minutes, 8-10 minutes if you’re really serious. You’ll soon be able to take on more and more words as you progress, thus resulting in a much smoother and more natural delivery. With time, you’ll also be able to speed up. But, don’t rush this. Work patiently.

Don’t become overly concerned with your timing at this point! Timing and fluidity comes later.

It’s extremely important to do this EVERY DAY for the next 7-10 days! Consistently!

In just a week of *consistent* practice, you’ll be sure to find significant improvement in your ability to **cold read or ‘line lift’**. Continue on and you’ll find that you’ll be able to put more attention on your *experience* and less on trying to find your lines or memorizing, resulting in freeing you up.

When you read with your scene partner, you’ll be able to concentrate much more on *them*. As a result, you’ll become more available. Your ability to relate will intensify, and the scene itself will significantly improve. Now you’ll be open and present for more *moments* and less *reading*.

REMEMBER:

This is cold reading, not memorization. Try not to memorize anything. And, do not use a highlighter! Do your best to do this every day. Concentrate and Stay Focused!

We look forward to working with you in the Studio!



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