

# 7 Tips for a Good Audition

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## 1. Act. Don't just read. Or just sing. Or just dance.

Remember, you are auditioning to act in a show – not a concert or a recital. Yes, there are times when simply being a cute little kid is enough, but for the most part, we are looking for actors. So many people stand before the casting committee and read the lines they were given or sings their lyrics, so when someone actually tries to act out the part they make a big impression. And what you want is to stand out from the crowd.

## 2. Learn a little bit about the show you are auditioning for.

Most of the shows we choose have been around for at least a few years. With a little bit of searching, you can find a brief description of the shows we are working on. Many times we even make a character list available, and discuss the characters at audition workshop. The more you understand the show and the characters, the more you will be able to do with the piece of script you will be given to audition with.

## 3. Do your best. The entire time. No matter what.

Remember Rule #1 – Act. Don't just read. If you're called back for a part, give it your all. Don't worry that it isn't the part you want in the show. Parts will be assigned after the auditions. We just want to know that you have the ability to act and that you have a strong work ethic and give your all to whatever you do. If you did your research and learned a little bit about the show, you can start to make some decisions about how to show the part during your audition.

We like to see that you have thought about the character, and how they would behave if they were speaking or singing the lines you were given. Think about their mood, the situation they are in, and who they are talking with. These things all show into how that character would act. You may not get the interpretation entirely right, and that's OK. We want to see that you thought about your character and that you can do something with the part.

## 4. Slow down and enunciate every word.

One sure sign of nervousness is speeding through the lines. When you talk too fast, it is harder to make sure each word is understood, and the emotion that should accompany those words does not come through. Slow down and make sure you say each word clearly.

Think about the way people actually speak. For most people, the pace is more relaxed, and there are pauses sprinkled throughout the conversation. Remember, we don't want you to only read the lines. We want you to speak the lines like your character is real, and having a real conversation.

## 5. If you make a mistake, battle through it.

Even the best actors occasionally make mistakes on stage. But good actors know how to work through their mistakes without letting the audience realize that a mistake was made.

One of the things we are looking for is poise. We want to know how you will react when things don't go as rehearsed. If you fall apart during an audition, it doesn't give the casting committee much confidence that you will react well on the nights of the show.

If you do make a mistake, don't apologize. Don't ask to start over. Just pick up from where the mistake was made and push forward. This shows the casting committee that recovery is a strength, and this can be just as important as the rest of your audition.

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## 6. Don't be too cocky.

No one is guaranteed a spot in a show. It doesn't matter what other roles you have had with us or anyone else. If the committee decides you are not the right fit for the role, you will not get the part. If you have real acting experience, and you audition well, you significantly increase your chances of getting cast. If you come across as being someone that is hard to work with, it makes it much harder for the casting committee to give you a part.

We have seen quite a few young actors walk into an audition because they just assume they will be given a part, and their audition is flat and uninspiring, or they are disrespectful to the casting committee and/or others auditioning. Then they are shocked when they don't get a significant role in the show.

If you are taking the casting committee's time to go through the audition, you need to give it your best. Every time.

If you have acting experience, we will know from the information on your audition form. But your audition will speak volumes more than the experience on your audition form, and the way you carry yourself on *and* off of the audition stage will speak even louder than that.

## 7. Audition often.

One of the biggest obstacles between you and getting cast in a show is your nervousness. Nervousness makes you more timid. It makes you rely on the script in your hand too much, so you end up reading and not acting. It makes you talk too fast. It makes you less memorable and more likely to get lost in the crowd.

The best way to overcome your nervousness is to practice. That means auditioning more.

If you don't get the part, shake it off as a learning experience, and when the next show rolls around, go out and audition again. The more you go through the process, the easier it becomes. Even if you didn't get the part that you wanted, give the show your all. Showing the director that you put your entire self into whatever role you're given will bode well for future auditions.

### **BONUS TIP: If you don't get the part you wanted, don't argue about it.**

As I said earlier, the decisions about who to cast and who we have to say "no" to are rarely easy. There is a lot of discussion and back-and-forth involved. If the committee decides that you are not the best fit for the part, please respect their decision about what they feel is best for the show they are directing. It doesn't always mean that you had a bad audition, or that you're not a good actor. It just means that you were not the best actor for this part in this show.

Arguing leave a bad impression on the people that cast the shows. Taking to social media, gossiping with others who auditioned, and accusing the committee of nepotism or general unfairness will leave an even worse impression. It comes across as though you're telling the casting committee that you know better than them, and insulting your cast mates. You will not change anyone's mind. All it does is make it more difficult for the director and producers to cast you in a future production.

That being said, it *is* appropriate to ask what you could do to improve so you have a better chance of getting into future shows. If you follow the advice in this article, your auditions will improve. And soon you will be celebrating the good news that you got the part!

