



MERLIN WORKS

You improvise every day.
Why not get good at it?

Merlin Works

Team Work Cheat Sheet

Try This: Applauding Mistakes

In pairs, admit a mistake or failure to your partner. Then smile, bow, and let your partner applaud you. Try to celebrate risks as well as successes.

Try This: First Letter Last Letter

When listening breaks down, try having a conversation where the last letter of one person's sentence is the first letter of the next person's sentence.
"How are yoU?"
"**U**nusually good!"

Try This: The Shakeout

When energy is low and things get bogged down, do a shakeout. Everyone stands and counts aloud as the group shakes each arm and leg in rounds of 8's, 4's, 2's, and 1's as fast as they can. Feel the difference!

Improv Tips for Being a Team Player:

1. **Make eye contact** (Connect with your partner right off the bat. Action speaks louder than words and eye contact practically screams.)
2. **Open up awareness** (See the whole group, not just the part you are immediately focused on. Use your peripheral vision and other senses to take everything in.)
3. **Say Yes** (To your own and to other's ideas, even if it's just to try them out.)
4. **Make Your Partner Look Good** (Play generously and make whatever your partner gives you exactly what you wanted.)
5. **Be Obvious** (Communicate clearly and simply to make sure everyone's with you.)
6. **Listen to the Group Mind** (Get quiet and the group will tell you what is needed of you.)
7. **The Most Important Thing is What Your Partner Just Said or Did** (Your partner is your life preserver—so don't lose track of them)
8. **Be willing to give up your ideas for others.** (You've got a ton of them. Why not give in a little to give others a good time?)
9. **Be willing to give up some control** (Trust yourself and your partner to have something when the time comes. Make sure you share in the creative process)



Shana Merlin has been a professional improviser since 1995, performing from Calgary to San Francisco to Atlanta to Las Vegas to London, and a trainer since 2000, where some of her clients have included PricewaterhouseCoopers, Four Seasons, and The University of Texas McCombs School of Business. Shana has trained with most of the masters in the field of improvisation including the founders of Theatresports, The Groundlings, IO, and Second City.

To bring Merlin Works in to help your team be fun, fast and flexible head to www.merlin-works.com