

The Improvisation Cards

These ninety-six Improvisation Cards are for use with John Abbott's *The Improvisation Book*, published by Nick Hern Books.

I recommend you print the Improvisation Cards onto card and then laminate them. I would suggest that they are printed on different coloured card for each category so they are easily distinguishable. If you don't have a laminator, most high-street printing or stationery shops should offer the service. Laminating the cards makes the process slightly more time-consuming but will give the cards longevity. I suggest that the lamination overlaps the edge of the card and the corners are snipped off, making the cards easier to handle and more resilient.

The cards can certainly be used without lamination, but they might be slightly flimsier. With careful handling, they can easily be shuffled and used on a regular basis. If you do this, I suggest that you snip the corners as suggested above.

Blank cards are provided for you to write your own suggestions.

John Abbott

Key



Characters

S

Simple Scenarios

C

Complex Scenarios

IE

Extreme Scenarios



ADDICT

A strong need for something is always at the back of your mind



AMBITIOUS PERSON

You want to get to the top



BOSSY PERSON

You like telling other people what to do



COMPETITIVE PERSON

You want to be the best



COMPULSIVE LIAR

You continually make up lies about yourself and your past



CONTRARY PERSON

You tend to disagree with everything



PERSON AT A CROSSROADS

You have to make an important decision about something in your life



DO-GOODER

You are always trying to help other people



EGOIST

You have a great deal of confidence in yourself



ELUSIVE PERSON

You don't really like people trying to pin you down or categorise you



EXPERT

You feel you can talk intelligently about most things



FALLEN STAR

You were famous once but not any more



GENEROUS PERSON

You often like to give things to people



GUILT-RIDDEN PERSON

You often feel guilty and tend to take the blame when things go wrong



HOLIDAYMAKER

You love to spend time relaxing with your friends



HYPOCHONDRIAC

You often feel that something is wrong with your health



INDECISIVE PERSON

You find it hard to make decisions



LAZY PERSON

You like to do as little as possible



LEADER

You like to take charge



LONER

You are not really comfortable around people



LOVER

You are in love and nothing else is as important



MELANCHOLIC

You often get sad about things



OPTIMIST

You always feel things will work out for the best



PERFECTIONIST

You want everything to be perfect



PHYSICAL PERSON

You have spent more time developing your body than your mind



ROMANTIC

You are a very romantic person



SEARCHER

You are looking for some sort of spiritual meaning in life



SERVILE PERSON

You are happiest when other people tell you what to do



SHY PERSON

You are quite shy



SYCOPHANT

You tend to agree with everyone and everything



VAIN PERSON

Your appearance is the most important thing in your life



VICTIM

You feel as if your life has gone wrong and that it probably always will



WINNER

You feel as if things often go right for you



S

A job interview

S

A customer and
a shop assistant

S

A blind date

S

A teacher
and a student

S

Strangers in an all-night
café at 5.00 in the morning

S

Flat-sharers on their
first evening in a new flat

S

A hairdresser
and a client

S

Live-in partners
at breakfast

S

Strangers sitting next to
each other on a bus

S

Homeless people

S

People having a break at work

S

People on a platform
waiting for a train

S

People in a hospital waiting room

S

Painters and decorators

S

People in a gym

S

An employer and a
new employee on their
first day at work

S

People at an airport, waiting
to get on a delayed flight

S

Friends meeting for an evening out.
One person is an hour late

S

Siblings meeting for a drink

S

People by a swimming
pool in Spain

S

Friends camping in the woods

C

Strangers trapped in a cellar
after an earthquake

C

A parent and a grown-up child
meet after fifteen years apart

C

An armed householder
discovers a burglar

C

People lost in the woods
settle down for the night

C

A householder and a plumber,
electrician or repair person, etc.

C

People in a jail cell.
One has been there for ten years,
the other arrived today

C

A kidnapper
and a victim

C

The partner and the lover
of a dead person meet
after the funeral

C

A television host and a
celebrity meeting just before
a television interview

C

A boss giving a trusted
employee the sack for
economic reasons

C

A fan has won dinner
with a famous person

C

Two parents of different children
meet at a school parents' evening

C

A customer and a
barman/barwoman
in a quiet pub

C

Musicians in a successful band
disagree about the future

C

Extras on a film set

C

**A step-parent and an adult stepchild
with nothing in common**

C

**Ex-partners meeting
after five years**

C

**Two ex-partners of the same
person meet in the street**

C

**A long-term couple, breaking up,
divide their belongings**

C

Strangers stuck in a lift

C

**A musician and his/her
manager after a gig**

IE

A person tries to rob a bank

IE

**Father Christmas (or Mother
Christmas) and an elf
on Christmas Eve**

IE

**Identical twins meet
for the first time**

IE

**A wounded soldier is cared
for by a friendly enemy civilian**

IE

**Aliens from a different planet
arrive on Earth (looking like humans)**

IE

**Passengers on a ship
which slowly starts to sink**

JE

A person who has become
invisible tries to talk
to a friend about it

JE

People watching the news on TV
which says a nuclear war has started

JE

People who have just been
shipwrecked on a desert island

JE

A meeting between a
superhero and an evil villain

JE

A person and a ghost

JE

People who seem to be the only
survivors after a nuclear holocaust

JE

Astronauts who have survived
massive damage to their spaceship

JE

A wild-west outlaw and a
heroic cowboy (or cowgirl)

JE

Time travellers go backwards
or forwards in time in
their time machine

JE

Iron-age cave-dwellers
(who can speak)

JE

A ship's captain rescues a person who
has been shipwrecked for ten years

JE

Mountaineers on Everest.
One is injured

IE

Goblins in an enchanted forest

IE

People drink a shrinking potion

IE

Witches/wizards make
a spell or create a potion

S

S

S

C

C

C

IE

IE

IE