

audition (audition [audition]) audition³

by Nasim Patel

audition (audition [audition]) is a casual interactive audition for two people

If any participants would like to document, two tripods are available to hold any smartphone

Begin by designating a “Person A” and “Person B”, then begin at page 1

Parentheses mark actions that should be undertaken

Person A: Hey, here we are, seated at *audition* (*audition* [*audition*]).

Person B: I like to call it *Audition*³. It sounds a bit more casual. When you say it out loud, it also makes a lot more sense than just saying “audition” three times in a row.

A: I guess so, but having two names for one work runs the risk of confusing passerbys, don’t you think? What if someone thinks *audition* (*audition* [*audition*]) and *audition*³ are two different works?

B: To be honest, I don’t really see that happening. It’s not like many works around here are similar in name to it, so any title with the word audition in it seems pretty clear.

A: What’s written on your script?

B: I’d love to say something different to yours, but the truth is that they’re exactly the same.

A: Exactly the same? Do you mind if I check?

B’s CHOICE:

1. B: ***Examine each other’s scripts***
2. B: **I would mind, actually... (*Continue the script*)**

B: If you really want proof, just read further ahead and I think you’ll find a perfect match up of content. Unless one of us decides to betray the other and confuse them by leaning so far off script that the lifeline of specificity is lost in the literal-literal abyss.

A: Alright, that’s fair. Can’t blame someone for trying to work out a shared sense of coherency here.

B: I guess considering the space we are sharing right now, it’s important for us to consolidate some sort of trust to facilitate the rest of this process.

A: What if I don’t want to make it to the end of the process?

B: Well I don’t have any answers written here on my paper, so I guess you can just decide that for yourself. End whenever it seems unimportant or irrelevant to whatever you came here for.

A: Or I could just read the rest in silence?

B: That’s definitely an option. Whatever works for you is the most optimal option. You probably don’t have as much time as you think.

A’s CHOICE:

1. A: ***Read the rest of the script silently***
2. A: **Thanks for the advice. Perhaps we should begin? (*Continue the script*)**

B’s CHOICE:

1. B: **Yes, let’s begin (*Continue the script*)**
2. B: **No, I think we’ll leave it there (*End the script*)**

A: Hello and welcome to the audition

B: Thanks so much for having me, I’m really grateful to have made it today.

A: Did you have any troubles getting here tonight?

B: No, it was a very feasible task to complete.

A: Well that's great to hear. Hopefully the ease of your arrival at today's audition will carry on throughout it!

B: I do hope so indeed.

A: So, I assume by now that you should know the role you are auditioning for?

B: Actually, to tell the truth, I'm not quite sure what role I am auditioning for today. I do have one question though. Am I the auditioner or the auditionee?

A: *Give pause and ponder question*

I believe we've found ourselves in an intriguing predicament where neither of us is sure how to proceed.

B: Perhaps we could paper, scissors, rock?

A: Let's do that!

(PLAY PAPER, SCISSORS ROCK)

WINNER'S CHOICE:

1. **The winner chooses if the two will swap roles or continue forward with the same roles.**

B: So I will be the auditioner.

A: And I the auditionee.

B: Welcome to today's audition where you will be auditioning for the role of person in "*Audition* (*Audition* [*Audition*])" or "*Audition*³" for short.

A: Thanks so much for allowing me to audition today. I look forward to completing the audition and achieving that role.

B: Great. So we'll start with a simple exercise. I believe you should already have your script prepared?

A: I do indeed.

B's CHOICE:

1. **B: We will begin with a fictional interaction between a Humans of New York cameraman and a random passerby (*Continue the script*)**
2. **B: We will begin with an argument (*Skip to page 5*)**

A: "Hello, my name is Irving and I'd love to take your photo if I could. What's your name?"

B: "Yes of course! That would be fine with me. My name is Jaz."

A: "Thanks so much Jaz, how has your day been so far?"

B: "Oh it's been awful! What a stressful situation I've found myself in."

A: "What happened?"

B: "I've been waiting to attend this audition for weeks and weeks and they finally gave me a time slot to go. So I went and I think I did a really bad job. I just get so stressed out in the moment, and I'm not sure how extreme or shallow I need to be. There's something about achieving that perfect

balance that feels so foreign to me. And the only practice I get at auditions is obviously when I attend one, so I wouldn't say I'm getting a lot of experience."

A: "Well Irving, what if I were to tell you that this interaction we're having now is essentially an audition!"

B's CHOICE:

1. **B: My name is Jaz. (*Continue the script*)**
2. **B: For fuck's sake, I told you before, my name is Jaz. (*Continue the script*)**
3. **B: *Ignore the incorrect name* (*Skip to the next part of the script that is underlined*)**

A: "Oh I'm so sorry Jaz, my name is Irving."

B: Wait I'm getting a little confused. Is your name Irving or the Auditioner?

A: "I'm afraid I don't know what you mean. My name is Irving and I'm a photographer for Humans of New York, the website."

B: No, I mean outside of this audition.

A: "Do you mean the audition we're doing right now where I'm a photographer?"

B: No, the audition where we were just deciding who was going to be the auditioner and who was going to be the auditionee!

A: Oh, my apologies, it does get dreadfully confusing within the audition.

B: Which audition? The Humans of New York one or the bigger one?

A: To avoid confusion I do think it would be best to just continue on. I'm sure this will make more sense as we progress.

B's CHOICE:

1. **B: This isn't worth it, I think I'm done to be honest. (*End the script*)**
2. **B: Sorry, but I think I'm going to move on now. Thanks for that, though! (*End the script*)**
3. **B: Alright. Where were we up to? (*Continue the script*)**

A: "Well Jaz, what if I were to tell you that this interaction we're having right now is essentially an audition!"

B: "Well then for the sake of my career I can't see any reason to not take part!"

A: "Great, so I'll take your photo then. But just before I do that, normally we also write down some short statement from you, so the image has a bit more personality. I suppose we're writing more of a profile of you. Considering New York City is such a huge location with a wide variety of people, we really want to proudly display all the identities that reside within this beautiful city."

B's CHOICE:

1. ***Say a short statement about yourself. This could be either fictional or real.***

A: "That sounds perfect! Thanks so much. So the post should be online within a few days, but it may take a little longer, depending on how much other content I get today."

B: How many people are you planning on auditioning today? I got the feeling that this was a bit more exclusive, or personal. Was that the wrong impression for me to get?

A: "No I very much understand your concern. But if you think about it, this is an opportunity for your profile to be seen by literally millions of people! We do have a rather large following after all."

B: No, I wasn't talking about the Humans of New York thing, I was talking about this audition.

A: The one for the position of Auditioner?

B: Yeah, that's the one.

A: That's up to the people, not up to me. Or you, I never really had the agency to take this how I wanted anyway.

B's CHOICE:

1. B: I never wanted this (*Continue the script*)
2. B: Who are you? (*Skip to page 5*)

A: Wanted what?

B: All this responsibility, seated here, with you. It was thrust upon me as an act of commitment I didn't realise I was giving myself.

A: But you're here now, you've almost made it the whole way through. We've been talking to each other this whole time, haven't we?

A: I'm not sure we've been talking to each other. Is reciting the same as speaking, talking, and conversing?

B: It's not clear when your definitions are so specific and strangling. Maybe you could make an attempt to be vaguer?

A: But any content I say doesn't need to be vaguer, the frame itself is already so vague. Everything I say within this performative frame can be as concise as I want, and it'll still come out vague.

B: I would argue that if you arrive at this point of thinking, then it's not your problem anymore. It's someone else's.

A: Well then should I actualise that?

B: You mean hand the problem off to someone else?

A: Would that be so bad?

A's CHOICE:

1. A: Or maybe we could restart? (*Wait for response from B*)
2. A: Better someone else than me. (*Pass the script to someone else, or leave it on the chair*)

B's CHOICE:

1. B: Yeah, let's restart. (*Restart the script from page 1*)
2. B: I think that's a fine idea. (*Pass the script to someone else, or leave it on the chair*)

A: "I simply do not believe you deserved that role. You would have been suited to something much more basic, like a tree in the background. That's where you belong."

B: "I admire your passion, I really do. But to be honest, when it comes to talent, it seems I'm the one that has reached success through the process of audition. I understand it's quite complicated, but do try to understand. All these opportunities are on equal ground here. Or that's what I'd imagine. I can see that's confusing to you."

A: "This isn't an argument, it's a disagreement. I'm disagreeing with you."

B: "To be fair, I can't tell how clear the difference is. Either way we've arrived at a point of conflict"

A: "Well I don't see the outcome of this going anywhere. It seems to me that you're a bit of an immovable object!"

B: "Well you seem to be something of an unstoppable force!"

A's CHOICE:

1. **A: I can only see the outcome being destruction. (*Continue the script*)**
2. **A: I remember us having a similar conversation (*Skip to page 6*)**

B: "Well that seems a little pessimistic, don't you think?"

A: "I know it's generic, but I really see this more as a realist perspective. I just don't see how much further this could go."

B: "Well we do have the opportunity for an abrupt end, if that is what you'd prefer."

A: "Maybe..."

B's CHOICE

1. **B: Let's take the abrupt end. (*End the script*)**
2. **B: Do you really think we could end it there? I suppose we could... (*Skip to page 6*)**

A's CHOICE:

1. A: My name is Jaz (*Continue the script*)
2. A: My name is _____ (*Your real name*) (*Skip to the next underlined question*)

B: Well, that's just confusing now, isn't it?

A: Hey, you were the one that asked. That means I should be able to ask now. What's your name?

B's CHOICE:

1. B: My name is Jaz (*Continue the script*)
2. B: My name is _____ (*Your real name*) (*Skip to page 7*)

A: I suppose this is us arriving at a standstill.

B: Yeah, something like when the unstoppable force meets the immovable object.

A: I remember reading a Superman comic where that question was asked.

B: What was the answer?

A: Superman said: "They surrender."

B: Does that mean we need to surrender at this point as well?

A's CHOICE:

1. A: Yeah, but it was fun, though! (*End the script, leave the script on the chair and leave*)
2. A: Yeah, that's it. (*End the script, leave the script on the chair and leave*)
3. A: *Own statement* (*End the script, leave the script on the chair and leave*)

B's CHOICE:

1. B: Yeah, but it was fun, though! (*End the script, leave the script on the chair and leave*)
2. B: Yeah, that's it. (*End the script, leave the script on the chair and leave*)
3. B: *Own statement* (*End the script, leave the script on the chair and leave*)

A: It was really nice to meet you!

B: Yeah, you too, thanks for your time.

A's CHOICE:

1. A: Maybe, if you wanted, we could restart? *(Wait for response from B)*
2. A: Who's next? *(Pass the script to someone else, or leave it on the chair)*

B's CHOICE:

1. B: Yes, let's restart. *(Restart the script from page 1)*
2. B: Who's next? *(Pass the script to someone else, or leave it on the chair)*