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## ACTING EXERCISE

Give your actors this dialogue:

**A:** "Hi"

**B:** "Hi"

**A:** "How are you?"

**B:** "Fine."

**A:** "What did you do last night?"

**B:** "Not much."

**A:** "Oh."

**B:** "Well, good-bye."

**A:** "Good-bye."

Have your actors memorize these lines by running them a few times. Then have them rehearse the scene with a motivation/objective known only to them but not to their partner.

Here are some possibilities:

1. B is at a bus stop. A enters and wants B to follow him away from the seat because there is a bomb under it. B thinks A wants his seat and he will not give up his seat no matter what!

2. A is at a bus stop. B enters and recognizes A as an old friend. A thinks B is an escaped convict he's seen on the post office wall.

3. B is a teenager. A is his mother greeting him at the breakfast table after he's been out late the night before. A wants B's approval and friendship. B is hung over and wants to be left alone.

Once the actors have run the scene again with their objectives/motivations in mind, see if they can guess what their partner is fighting for. Work with them on how their motivations/objectives affect the way they interact, both physically and verbally. The purpose of the exercise is to get your actors away from thinking that acting is about looking or sounding a certain way. Instead, as they focus on what they're fighting to get (objective) and why (motivation), they may find themselves saying these very simple lines in a way they never would have predicted.

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