

EXERCISE -- GIVING INFORMATION --- NOT GIVING INFORMATION

In life we seldom give information. Which is to say we rarely state a fact without communicating our attitude toward the fact, or using the fact as a vehicle to influence or impose our will on someone else. We are seldom literal.

Spend a day testing this proposition through observation. Listen closely to the conversation around you. You will be hard-pressed to find bare factual statements.

To find the life of a character an actor must make a choice as to why and how he is saying each line. Embracing the observation that a real person seldom merely "gives information" prompts the actor and director to explore the intentions underneath their lines as well as "the doings" on their surface.

As you listen to scenes read or watch them performed look out for lines that are constructed in a way that could be misconstrued by an actor as giving factual information, but actually is intended to convey something else.