

### Understanding Blocking Terms:

1. Downstage Cross: A cross between the audience and the actor / object. An actor is crossing in front of another actor or object.
2. Upstage Cross: A cross behind an actor / object. An actor crosses above another actor / object.
3. Counter Cross: When a downstage / upstage cross occurs the other actor has to take a step towards the other actor to lessen the time that an actor is blocked.  
When someone crosses upstage, the actor downstage needs to take a step stage left or right into the other person, depending on which way that person is coming.  
When a person crosses downstage (In front of another person) the upstage person needs to take a step downstage directly where the person was.
4. Cheating:(Opening up) Finding a way for an actor to face the audience so they can be clearly seen.
5. Downstage Curl: An actor starts with a downstage cross, then hooks back into a person or object so that they do not have their back to the audience.
6. Upstage Curl: An actor starts with an upstage cross, then hooks back into a person or object to bring focus back to the other actor.
7. Give and Take: The second actor helps the first actor sell something to an audience.
8. Using the Upstage Hand: An actor uses the hand furthest away from the audience so that they can open up and be easily seen. This might occur when you put your arm around someone or shake hands.
9. Using the Downstage Hand Using the hand closest to the audience to allow an actor to open to the audience. This might occur when you open a door or gesture off stage.
10. Block-out: This is an aggressive move that generally occurs downstage. One actor turns there back on an other to show power. This move is also used to control another actor.
11. Locking and Blocking: To block someone is when one actor stands in the way of another actor so that they can not clearly be seen. An actor can block themselves out.  
To Lock someone is to force another actor into a position where they are blocked from the audience.
12. To Unlock Someone: Is to force another actor into a position where they have to open up so the audience can clearly see them.

13. Mime: To tell a complete story with the use of stage substance and without talking.
14. Space Substance: To create an object that is not really there with movement and imagination.
15. Anchoring: To stand straight legged in one spot.
16. The Fourth Wall: An imaginary wall between the stage and the audience. To break the fourth wall means that you walk out in to the audience from the front of the stage. You can also break the fourth wall when you ask the audience a question or address something that they are doing.
17. To Upstage: To take the focus off of another actor by doing something that is too big and therefore draws the attention away from where it should be.
18. Stage Business: To find ways for an actor to stay busy while they are not being focused on the stage. An example would be for someone to knit in the background while a couple flirts.
19. Adlibbing: To add sounds or words to the written script in order to give more meaning. An example is to grunt to show displeasure.
20. Improv: To add a sentence or scene that is completely made up.