

MONOLOGUE EXAMPLES: Below are three different drafts of a monologue. These monologues are for the exact same character in the exact same situation. Read all three to see how a monologue can improve with a few drafts.

Monologue #1

WOMAN:

This is mad crazy. Look at all this money. This is going to take care of everything. I can't believe it. Oh, well, I better believe it. Looks like this is my lucky day.

This monologue doesn't offer very much information. All we know is that a woman has had a lucky day and has a lot of money.

Monologue #2

CARRIE ANN:

Wow! I was telling this middle-aged customer with a moustache all about the fact that my daughter needs an operation and then when I gave him the bill, he told me that he had enough money to pay for the cheddar cheese omelet, hash browns and orange juice he ordered, but, unfortunately, he didn't have enough to give me a tip because he only had ten dollars on him and the bill was \$9.96, so he offered me a scratch-off lottery ticket instead. I was kind of bummed. I really need my tips because Frank, my boss, pays me and the other waiters so terribly. I figured I'd win maybe five dollars at the most or nothing at the worst. But oh, well, at least he was a nice customer. Then I scratched the ticket off and I won the whole jackpot. My twelve-year-old daughter, Lucille, is now going to be able to have that surgery she needs on her kidney and everything is going to be okay!

This monologue reveals much more information! But to some extent, it offers too many details. Audiences like to feel smart in figuring some stuff out on their own, so try not to spoon-feed every detail to them...

Monologue #3

CARRIE ANN, a WAITRESS:

(Looking at something in her hands) Cherries. Cherries. Cherries. Cherries. Ohmygod. Cherries-Cherries-Cherries-Cherries. *(pauses for a moment and takes it all in)* Can this be what I think it is? Can this be real? I happen to tell a random stranger about my problems and like a guardian angel he swoops down to save the day. Oh, um, maybe I should get him some coffee. Do guardian angels even drink coffee? My God. Lucille is going to be fine. This kind of money is going to make everything fine. I need to call Dr. Angelo and schedule us in like now. And when Frank gets in – whenever he bothers to roll out of bed – I'm going to walk into his office, look him straight in the eye and tell him, "you can take this job and shove it 'cause I quit!" And if Lucille gets better – when – when Lucille gets better, I'll take her to Florida and enroll her in one of those fancy schools and we'll go to Disney World every day. This man – this-this-this this angel – has no idea that today he saved not one life, but two. Yeah, maybe I should get him some coffee. He can have all the coffee he wants.

Lastly, this monologue takes all the information we learned in #2 and adds in all the emotion that Carrie Ann must be feeling. We also get more information about how she feels about her job, her daughter, the customer, and this new development in her life.