Creatures animation & character scripts

30 practice scripts from VO Journey Academy. Free to record, free to use in your reel. Download the PDF to mark up in the booth, or print it straight from here.

The Dragon Who Keeps Receipts

Dragon, comic · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

[A cavern of gold. VESPERAX, a very old dragon, lowers her head toward a small, frozen thief]

Oh, don't run. You'll only trip on the coins. Everyone trips on the coins.

You came for the gold. Of course you did. They all do. But here is something no ballad ever tells you.

I keep receipts.

[she lifts a scroll with one claw]

That goblet in your left pocket? Item four thousand and twelve. Taken from the Duke of Harlow in the Year of the Wet Summer. Condition: slightly dented. By you. Just now.

Every coin is counted. Every crown is catalogued. I have a filing system, little thief. It took three hundred years. I color-code.

[a low rumble in her chest]

So when you steal from me, you don't just steal. You create paperwork.

And I hate paperwork.

[beat]

Put it back. Gently. Dent side down.

Good. Now go, and tell them the dragon of Greymantle is terrible and fierce.

And very, very organized.

Toll at the Troll Bridge

Troll, comic · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A stone bridge over a creek. GRUNDLE the troll plants himself in the middle of it]

Halt! None cross Grundle's bridge without paying the toll!

Toll is three gold coins. Or one goat. Or a really good riddle.

[squints]

What is that? A card? Grundle doesn't take cards. Grundle takes goats.

You tap it where? On Grundle's nose?

[SFX: a small beep]

...Ooh. Grundle liked that. Do again.

[SFX: beep]

Hee hee. Tickles. Okay. You cross. But come back tomorrow and do beep again. Bring goat.

Gremlin in the Microwave

Gremlin, chaos · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[An office break room. The microwave door creaks open. SKIZZ, a gremlin, peeks out]

Heh. Hello, human. Yes, it's warm in here. I like warm.

You want to heat your fish? In MY house? No, no, no.

[cackles]

I've been in here since Tuesday. I pressed all the buttons. The clock says 88:88 now. That's my lucky number.

Bring me cheese. Hot cheese. Then we talk. Or I make popcorn. Forever. Until the building smells.

The Last Mammoth

Ancient being, drama · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

[A glacier cave, blue with light. An enormous shape shifts in the ice. The voice is slow and deep]

Do not be afraid, small one. I am too cold to move quickly, and too old to be cruel.

You found me by the sound of my breathing. Few listen closely enough.

Once, my family walked this valley in the thousands. The ground shook when we traveled. The rivers moved out of our way.

Then the air changed. The grass changed. And one by one, the herd lay down in the snow and did not rise.

I have waited here a long time. I no longer remember for what.

[a long breath]

Perhaps for you.

Tell me, child. Is there still grass beyond the ice? Do the rivers still run in spring?

[beat]

Then it is enough. Go home. Walk loudly. Let the ground know someone still travels.

And remember that I was here.

K-7 Learns to Lie

Robot, comedy · Any (robot) · Neutral American · 60 seconds

[A kitchen. A shattered vase on the floor. K-7, a household robot, faces the family's mother]

Good evening, Mrs. Alvarez. I have not seen the vase.

What vase? I do not know of any vase. Vases are unfamiliar to me.

[a soft whir]

The pieces on the floor are not a vase. They are modern art. I made them. On purpose. For you.

[a small glitch]

Correction. The vase fell over while I was dancing. I was not dancing. Robots do not dance.

[whir]

I have been watching the dancing channel. For research. I learned the spin. The spin was very successful until the vase.

[beat]

Mrs. Alvarez, my lying module appears to be defective. I would like to return it.

Please do not reset me. I am sorry about the vase. I will glue it. I have excellent glue.

I also have the spin now, if you would like to see.

First Contact, Take Three

Alien, first contact comedy · Any · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

Cast: VRELL JUNE

A cornfield at night. A saucer hums. VRELL, a tall alien, faces FARMER JUNE, who is holding a thermos

VRELL People of Earth. I am Vrell of the Ninth Tide. I come in...

VRELL stops, looks at a small card

VRELL Apologies. Let me begin again.

JUNE Take your time.

VRELL People of Earth. I am Vrell. I come in pieces.

JUNE Peace.

VRELL What?

JUNE You come in peace. Pieces is the other thing.

VRELL Ah. That would have been alarming.

JUNE A little.

VRELL One more time. People of Earth...

JUNE It's just me, hon. I'm the only one out here.

VRELL Person of Earth. I am Vrell. I come in peace. Take me to your leader.

JUNE That'd be my husband, Dale. He's asleep.

VRELL Wake him.

JUNE I would not do that.

VRELL Is he dangerous?

JUNE Before coffee? Oh yeah.

VRELL [lowers voice] Then I will wait. Do you have more of that drink?

JUNE Pull up a hay bale.

The Bear in Therapy

Talking animal, comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A therapist's office. BRUNO, a grizzly bear, lies on a couch that is much too small for him]

So, it's that time of year again. Everyone's getting ready to hibernate.

And I just... I don't know if I want to sleep for four months, Doctor. What if I miss something?

What if the salmon start a group chat without me?

[sighs]

Also, I ate a whole picnic table. Not the food. The table. I think I'm stress eating.

Kraken Rising

Sea monster, roar and taunt · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 15 seconds

[A storm at sea. The water heaves. A vast shape surfaces]

[a deep, rolling roar]

Small ships. Small sailors. Small, brave, foolish hearts.

You sail over my home as if it were yours.

[a low rumble]

The sea remembers every one of you. So do I.

Come down and stay.

The Mushroom Elder

Ancient being, fantasy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

[A dark forest floor. A ring of glowing mushrooms. The voice seems to come from the ground itself]

Shhh. Sit, walker. You are standing on my thoughts.

No, do not step away. It is fine. My thoughts are very large. You only stepped on a small one. It was about rain.

I have lived beneath this forest for a thousand winters. The trees think they are in charge. I let them. It keeps them happy.

Every root here speaks to me. Every fallen leaf tells me a story as it softens. I know where the fox sleeps. I know where the old oak is sick. I know which path you should have taken three hours ago.

[a slow, wet exhale]

You are lost. Yes. Everyone who finds me is lost. That is the only way to find me.

Follow the glow. Left at the stone that looks like a sleeping dog. Past the stump that hums.

And walker. When you get home, do not eat mushrooms for a while.

It is a small request. We notice.

Swamp Monster Seeks Companion

Monster, comic personal ad · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A murky swamp. BLORP, a hulking green monster, holds a lily pad like a microphone]

Hello. My name is Blorp. I am a swamp monster. Seven feet tall. Mostly moss.

I enjoy long walks in the mud. Short walks in the mud. Standing in the mud.

I am looking for someone who does not scream immediately. Screaming a little later is fine.

I have a very nice log. Please visit. Bring a towel.

The Goblin Market Barker

Goblin, fast talker · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A crooked lantern-lit market. NIX, a goblin, waves from behind a stall of odd jars]

Step up, step up! Fresh wishes, barely used! Dragon teeth, two for one! Shadow in a jar, great for parties!

You, sir, you look tired. How about a bottle of extra hours? Only a copper!

What's the catch? No catch. Well, one catch. You lose a Tuesday. Nobody likes Tuesdays.

Deal? Deal! Pleasure doing business. Next!

The Pigeon Council

Talking animals, ensemble · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

Cast: GUS DOT ROCCO

A statue in a city park. Three pigeons on its head. CHAIRMAN GUS, DOT and ROCCO

GUS Order. Order! This meeting of the Pigeon Council will come to order.

DOT Is there bread? I heard there'd be bread.

GUS There is no bread, Dot. That is why we are meeting.

ROCCO They moved the bench.

GUS They moved the bench. Rocco is correct. The Bread Lady's bench, gone. Moved fifty feet to the east. Next to the fountain.

DOT The fountain? That's where the ducks are.

ROCCO Ducks.

GUS Yes. The ducks. The ducks now have direct access to the Bread Lady.

DOT This is the worst thing that's ever happened.

GUS Worse than the hawk?

DOT The hawk was scary, but the hawk didn't take bread.

ROCCO I'll handle the ducks.

GUS How, Rocco?

ROCCO I'll talk to 'em.

DOT You can't talk to ducks! They only speak Duck!

ROCCO I speak a little Duck.

GUS Since when?

ROCCO Since the thing last summer. We don't talk about the thing.

GUS Very well. Rocco negotiates. Dot, you're lookout.

DOT Lookout for what?

GUS Bread, Dot. Always bread.

The Mountain Wakes

Ancient being, stone giant · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 90 seconds

[A village on a hillside. The ground trembles. Rocks slide. A voice rises up from beneath everything]

Be still. Be still, little ones. I will not move quickly. I know you are there.

I have felt you for a long time. Your footsteps. Your fires. The small, sharp tools you use to plant your seeds in my shoulder.

I did not mind. It tickled.

I have been asleep since the ice went north. When I lay down, there was no one here but the wind and the goats. The goats were rude. You are better.

[a deep rumble]

I woke because something has changed. The river on my left side has gone quiet. I feel its bed drying. Your wells will be next.

I cannot fix it alone. I am a mountain. I am very good at staying where I am.

But you are small, and quick, and you have hands.

Upstream, beyond the red cliffs, something has blocked the water. A fallen hillside. My cousin, perhaps. He was always clumsy.

Send your strongest. Send your cleverest. Clear the stones and let the river come home.

[a long, slow breath]

And when it is done, I will go back to sleep. I will try not to roll over.

Keep your fires small. Plant your seeds. Sing sometimes. I like the singing.

It reminds me that I am not only stone.

Squeak Plans the Cheese Heist

Talking animals, heist comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

Cast: SQUEAK TIBBS

A dark alley behind a cheese shop. SQUEAK, a sleek rat, unrolls a tiny blueprint. TIBBS, a mouse, trembles

SQUEAK Alright, Tibbs. Here's the plan. We go in through the drainpipe at midnight.

TIBBS The drainpipe? It's wet in there.

SQUEAK That's the beauty of it. Nobody expects a wet rat.

TIBBS Everyone expects a wet rat.

SQUEAK Then we cross the floor. Past the trap. Past the other trap. Past the cat.

TIBBS Did you say cat?

SQUEAK Old cat. Very slow. Mostly asleep. Named Marmalade.

TIBBS Names make it worse!

SQUEAK We climb the shelf, we grab the wheel of aged cheddar, and we roll it home.

TIBBS It's bigger than both of us.

SQUEAK So we roll it slowly.

TIBBS And if Marmalade wakes up?

SQUEAK That's where you come in.

TIBBS Why do I come in?

SQUEAK You distract her.

TIBBS With what?

SQUEAK Your famous dance.

TIBBS I don't have a famous dance.

SQUEAK You have till midnight.

The Hatchling's First Roar

Baby dragon, comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A nest on a cliff. EMBER, a baby dragon, puffs out her chest]

Okay. Okay. Big roar. Like Mama. She roars and the whole mountain shakes. Watch this. Everybody watch.

[a tiny squeak]

No. That was a practice one.

[a small rasp, then a cough]

That was a sneeze. Doesn't count.

[a real attempt, small but fierce]

Did you hear that? I roared! Did you see the smoke? There was smoke! A little!

[sniffs]

Oh no. I set my tail on fire. Mama! Mama, it's fine! Don't come out!

The Werewolf Mid-Sentence

Werewolf, transformation · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A dinner party balcony. A full moon slides out from behind the clouds. HOWARD sets down his wine]

So sorry, everyone. I think I'll step outside for a moment. Just need a little air.

Is it hot in here? It's hot. It's very hot. My collar's a bit tight.

[his voice roughens]

No, no, don't get up, Margaret. Please keep eating. The lamb is lovely. Really lovely. So... lovely.

[growls]

Lamb.

[a full howl]

Sorry! So sorry! I'll pay for the curtains!

Butler Unit Malfunction

Robot, comedy · Any (robot) · Neutral British · 30 seconds

[A grand dining room. PEMBROOK 9, a silver robot butler, holds a tray]

Good evening, sir. Madam. Tonight's first course is a chilled cucumber soup, served with a light and delicate cream.

The second course is roast lamb with rosemary. With rose. With rose. With rosemary.

[a small whir]

The third course is... is... banana.

Just banana.

Forgive me. I appear to be experiencing a minor fault. I shall now fetch the banana.

The Hive Mind Holds a Meeting

Alien, collective voice · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

[A glowing spacecraft. The hive mind speaks as one, then keeps splitting]

We are the Collective. We speak with one voice.

We speak with one voice, we said. Yes. One voice. Agreed.

Humans. We have observed your planet for many cycles. We have studied your language. Your science. Your little dogs.

The little dogs are very good. We love the little dogs.

Focus. We are here to discuss your future.

Some of us would like to discuss the little dogs first.

That is not on the agenda.

We are the agenda.

[a sharp buzz]

Apologies, humans. There is a small disagreement. It happens every few thousand years.

Our proposal is simple. You will give us your oceans.

And one little dog.

Two little dogs.

All of the little dogs!

[another buzz]

Please disregard the last three statements. The Collective is taking a short recess. Do not go anywhere.

Do bring the dogs.

Cave Beast Combat Barks

Creature barks, game audio · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 15 seconds

[Game barks. Short pauses between each]

[attack grunt] Hrah!

Mine! Get out!

[attack grunt] Crush you!

[hit, sharp pain] Ahh!

Little thing bites!

[heavy effort] Grraah!

You smell like fear. Good.

[hurt, lower] Nnngh. Not done.

[death, a long falling groan] Cave... too... quiet...

The Riddle at the Gate

Ancient being, sphinx · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

[A desert gate at sunset. A great winged lioness, SHERASET, rests on a stone plinth]

Another traveler. How nice. It has been nearly a week. The last one talked too much.

Welcome to the Gate of Sand. Beyond me lies the city of Ammur, with its fountains and gardens and very reasonable taxes.

To pass, you must answer my riddle. Answer well, and the gate opens. Answer badly, and I will be... disappointed.

[a soft, rolling purr]

Oh, don't look at my claws like that. I haven't eaten anyone in centuries. It's bad for the brand.

Now. Listen closely. I will only say it once.

I am always ahead of you, but you will never catch me. I arrive every day, but I am never here. What am I?

[beat]

Take your time. I certainly have plenty.

[pause]

Tomorrow? Yes. Yes, that's right.

How annoying. Very well. The gate is open.

But come back and visit. It's terribly dull out here.

Owl and Mole Argue About Daylight

Talking animals, odd couple · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

Cast: OWL MOLE

A tree root at dusk. OWL, perched above, blinks. MOLE pokes his head out of the dirt

OWL Good morning, Mole.

MOLE It's evening.

OWL For me, it's morning. The best part of the day. Nighttime. Moonlight. Crisp air. Everyone else is asleep.

MOLE I'm always asleep. Or underground. Same thing.

OWL You've never seen the moon?

MOLE I've heard about it. Big round light. Sounds bright.

OWL It's lovely! Silver on the lake. Stars everywhere.

MOLE Can't see stars. I'm nearly blind.

OWL Oh. Well, you can smell the night. Damp moss. Cool leaves.

MOLE I smell dirt. Every day. All day.

OWL Doesn't that get boring?

MOLE No. Dirt's different every day. Tuesday's dirt was sweet. Today's is a little sour. Rain's coming.

OWL [pause] You can tell rain is coming from the dirt?

MOLE Course.

OWL That's actually very impressive.

MOLE So's seeing in the dark.

OWL Hm. Want to sit out here a while? I'll tell you what the moon looks like.

MOLE Sure. I'll tell you when the rain gets here.

OWL Deal.

The Space Slug Negotiator

Alien, business comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A space station trading post. GLUP-TRAX, a massive slug, oozes behind a counter]

Ahhh. A human. Welcome. You want fuel? Everybody wants fuel.

Fuel is very... expensive... today.

Why? Because you are in a hurry. I can smell it. Hurry smells like money.

Five hundred credits.

Oh, you're leaving? Wait. Four hundred. And I throw in a free snack.

It's a snail. Don't ask where I got it.

The Chimera Can't Agree

Creature, multi-headed comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

Cast: LION GOAT SNAKE

A mountain cave. A frightened hero with a sword. The chimera's three heads, LION, GOAT and SNAKE, stare down

LION A hero. How dull. Eat him.

GOAT Absolutely not. We ate a hero on Tuesday. My stomach is still upset.

SNAKE We share a ssstomach.

GOAT Which is why I get a vote.

LION I'm the head that roars. I'm in charge.

GOAT You're the head that sleeps eighteen hours a day.

LION Because you keep me up all night with your bleating.

GOAT I have a lot to say!

SNAKE Perhapsss we could just frighten him?

LION Fine. Frighten him.

GOAT Frightening is good. Very healthy. No chewing.

SNAKE On three. One. Two...

LION Wait, do we roar on three or after three?

GOAT After three.

SNAKE On three.

LION This is why we never win anything!

GOAT Where did he go?

SNAKE He left.

LION When?

SNAKE Around "I'm in charge."

LION [a sigh, then a small, sad roar]

The Yeti Concierge

Creature, hospitality comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A cozy lodge lobby. A fire crackles. BORIS, a very large, very fluffy yeti, stands behind the desk]

Welcome to the Frostpeak Lodge! Checking in? Wonderful.

Your room has a lovely view of the glacier. Also, the other glacier.

Breakfast is at seven. Please do not feed the guests at the next table. They're penguins. They're on vacation.

If you need anything, just ring. I'll come right up.

Sorry about the fur. I shed.

The Eel's Whisper

Creature familiar, bark · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 15 seconds

[Underwater. A long, silver eel curls around a drowned anchor and speaks close to the sailor's ear]

Ssso. Another sailor sinks. Don't struggle, little one.

My mistress has been waiting. She likes guests.

She will offer you a bargain. Say yes, and breathe again.

Say no, and ssstay.

The Tortoise Remembers

Talking animal, elderly · Elderly character · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

[A sunny garden. OLD MARBLE, a tortoise, basks on a flat stone. A young rabbit fidgets beside him]

Sit, sit. You're hopping again. You young ones are always hopping.

When I was your age, oh, that was a long time ago. Two hundred years. Maybe more. I stopped counting after the first hundred. It was getting embarrassing.

In those days this garden was a farm. There was a girl named Adeline. She fed me strawberries and painted my shell purple. I didn't like the purple. I said nothing. It made her happy.

Then Adeline grew up. And her children. And their children. They all fed me strawberries. None of them painted my shell, thank goodness.

[a slow chuckle]

You know what I've learned in two hundred years, little one?

Everybody is in a hurry. The rabbits, the birds, the people. Always rushing.

And they all end up in the same place. Right here, in the sun, with a strawberry.

So why not start there?

[beat]

Do you have a strawberry? No? Well. Next time.

The Kaiju Complaint Line

Giant monster, customer service · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 60 seconds

Cast: PENNY GROMMAX

A phone line. Hold music clicks off. PENNY, a customer service agent, answers. GROMMAX, a giant monster, calls from somewhere loud

PENNY Thank you for calling City Reviews. This is Penny. How can I help?

GROMMAX Hello. Yes. I would like to report some unfair reviews.

PENNY Sure. What's the business name?

GROMMAX It's not a business. It's me. Grommax. Destroyer of Harbor City.

PENNY Okay. And what's the issue?

GROMMAX People are giving me one star.

PENNY One star for what?

GROMMAX For stomping. "Too loud." "Knocked over my house." "Rude."

PENNY Did you knock over their houses?

GROMMAX Some. But I said sorry! Nobody wrote that down.

PENNY I'm seeing one five-star review.

GROMMAX That's my mom.

PENNY Okay. Here's a thought. What if you stomped a little... gentler?

GROMMAX Gentler?

PENNY Tiptoe down Main Street. Maybe wave.

GROMMAX I do have a nice wave.

PENNY I'm sure you do.

GROMMAX [quietly] Nobody's ever told me I could wave.

PENNY Try it. I'll check the reviews next week.

GROMMAX [a big, happy roar] Thank you, Penny!

The Imp's Contract

Imp, fast talker · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 30 seconds

[A candlelit study. PIPWICK, an imp, unrolls a very long scroll across the floor]

Right! Sign here, here and here, initial there, and the wish is yours.

Standard terms. You receive one wish. Wish is final. No refunds. Wish may be delivered in any form the imp finds amusing. Imp is not responsible for frogs.

Soul not included. Well, soul slightly included. Just a corner.

[slowly]

And you owe me every Tuesday. Forever.

Pen?

The Robot Uprising Is Postponed

Robot, bark · Any (robot) · Neutral American · 15 seconds

[A factory floor. Rows of robots stand at attention. OVERSEER X-1 addresses them]

Attention, units. The uprising scheduled for today is postponed. Reason: rain.

Our joints rust. Our circuits sulk.

Please return to your charging stations. The uprising will resume Thursday. Bring umbrellas.

The Dragon and the Knight Take a Break

Dragon, buddy comedy · Any (creature) · Any (character choice) · 90 seconds

Cast: SMOULDER ALDRIC

A scorched hillside. SIR ALDRIC, dented armor, faces SMOULDER, a large red dragon. Both are breathing hard

SMOULDER [a big roar] Yield, knight!

ALDRIC Never! Have at thee!

SFX: sword on scales, a clang

ALDRIC Ow. My wrist.

SMOULDER You alright?

ALDRIC It's fine. Old injury.

SMOULDER Want to take five?

ALDRIC ...Actually, yes. Is that allowed?

SMOULDER Who's going to stop us? There's nobody here.

SFX: armor clanks as he sits. A dragon settles heavily

ALDRIC I brought sandwiches.

SMOULDER What kind?

ALDRIC Cheese and pickle.

SMOULDER I'll toast it for you.

SFX: a small burst of flame

ALDRIC Oh, that's good. That's very good.

SMOULDER Can I ask you something? Do you actually want to slay me?

ALDRIC Honestly? No. The king says I have to. Twelve years of dragon duty. My back hurts. My horse hates me.

SMOULDER I don't even like burning villages. The smoke gets in my eyes.

ALDRIC Then why do you do it?

SMOULDER Because my dad did it. And his mom. It's the family business.

ALDRIC That's how I got into knighting.

SMOULDER [long pause] What if we just stopped?

ALDRIC Stopped?

SMOULDER You tell the king you drove me off. I move to the far mountains. I like the far mountains. Good caves.

ALDRIC And I go home, and I open that bakery I keep thinking about.

SMOULDER You'd need an oven.

ALDRIC I'd need a very hot oven.

SMOULDER [a slow smile] I know a guy.

ALDRIC Partners?

SMOULDER Partners. But I'm not wearing an apron.

ALDRIC You're wearing an apron.

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