

# you can do what you want unless someone tells you what to do (2018)

James Saunders

at least three people  
duration is variable

*you can do what you want unless someone tells you what to do* comprises a set of instructions in different categories which are spoken by participants which govern the actions made by other participants. It is part of the group of connected pieces *things to do*, and may be performed simultaneously with other pieces in the group.

## preparation

The piece is set up for installation-performance. The materials and instructions are made available in a situation where people can take part in the piece, coming and going as they wish.

There should be 10 noises, 10 pitches, and four devices made available on each table. Ideally there should be at least two tables, but more is possible. Any instruments, sound-producing objects, devices or sound processing equipment (digital, analogue, or acoustic) may be used, but it should be practicable for participants to use.

A list of instructions should also be made available to all participants, whether they are making sounds or giving cues.

## performance

Participants may elect to sit at one of the tables, give instructions, or observe.

Participants who sit at tables may make sounds as they wish using the available materials. They can use any of the sounds at any time and in any combination. When they are given instructions by participants giving cues, they must respond to these as a priority however. This may be exclusive (they only respond to instructions) or in parallel (they respond to instructions while continuing to make their own choice of sounds). Participants respond to the instructions by realizing the defined actions as soon as possible after they are spoken. If there are too many instructions to follow, participants should try to do the best they can to keep up and adopt strategies to cope with the flow of information (buffering, omitting, ignoring...). If desired, more than one participant may sit at each table.

Participants who choose to give cues may give verbal instructions from the selection available on the list provided. The instruction words may be spoken in any order, with any spacing in time, and may be repeated as required. These participants independently speak the instruction words at a level audible to the sound-making participants, but not so loud as to cover any sounds they make. Amplification may be used if required.

The piece is arranged for performance installation. The setup should be accessible by visitors to the space. Participants may take up one of the roles and stop at any point. There may be times when the piece is inactive, or where there is minimal involvement.

## noise

any noises may be used  
all noises must be as different as possible to each other  
duration of each noise is free  
noises are sounded using any means following each cue

instruction words:      noise 1  
                                 noise 2  
                                 noise 3  
                                 etc.

## pitch

any pitches may be used  
each pitch must be different  
duration of each pitch is free  
pitches are sounded using any means following each cue

instruction words:      pitch 1  
                                 pitch 2  
                                 pitch 3  
                                 etc.

## device

any automated devices may be used  
all actions involve turning the device on or off  
changes to the device state are made following each cue

instruction words:      device 1 on  
                                 device 1 off  
                                 device 2 on  
                                 device 2 off  
                                 device 3 on  
                                 device 3 off  
                                 etc.