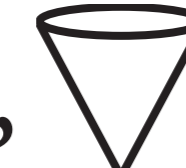

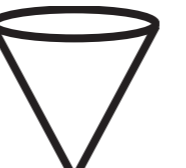
 is a downward cone,  is an upward cone.   are somewhere between standing and reclining on the slope. They are slumped and fidgeting, waiting for the performance to begin. \ Is leaning against the wall in the corner, also waiting. I send them a text message saying: start. *phones buzz* Each becomes/is/represents a cone or a line.

 : [Regular pace] I'm drawing a lot of diagrams to help me write the script.

 : [Regular pace] What diagrams?

 : Aahhh [-5s]? [Pause-5s] Ones that help us speak more naturally.

 : But, like, [Pause-3s] what does it even mean, to speak more naturally?

 : [Slow] It's like, restoring, the conversation's airflow. [Pause-3s] [Cough] [Pause-7s] [Cough]

 : What was I just saying? Like...
//

 : What was I saying, just before that? Like, just before, speaking naturally?

 : [Slower but not slow] Oh yeah, what are they of?
//

 : [Slower but not slow] Oh yeah, what are they of? [Pause-2s] Aha?

 : They're of one phrase after another – I guess. *Sliding down the slope.* How do you draw a diagram of things one-on-top-of-the-other?

 : *Sliding down the slope.* Don't you mean:

One

On

Top

Of


The

Other?

 : [Fast] Instead of lines striking through, you know, dissecting?

 : [Slow] Oh yeah, the diagonal is so diagrammatic.

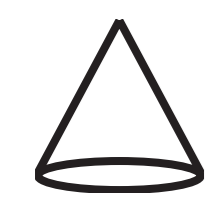
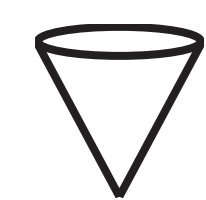
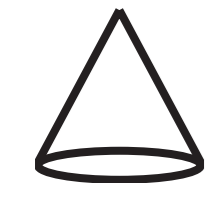
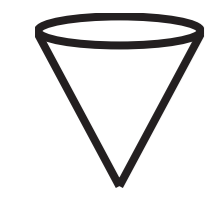
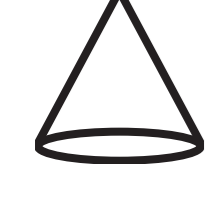
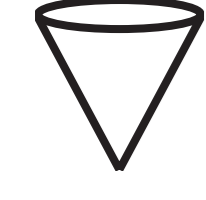
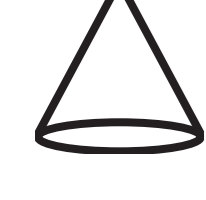

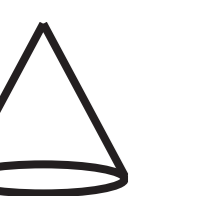
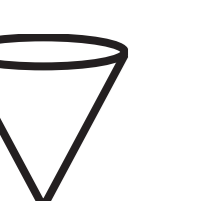

 : [Fast] See what I'm saying/it cuts right through.

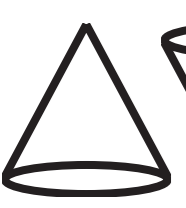
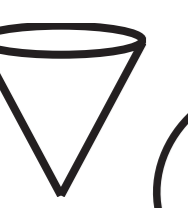
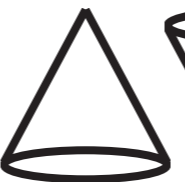
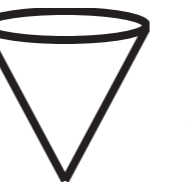

 : [Pause-10s]

 : [Sniff] [Pause-5s] [Sniff] [Sigh]

 : *Pushes through audience.* Sorry, excuse me, I can't see what to say. [Cough]

 *Reorients script and leans on a different wall differently.*  *stand up and lean.*

 : [Regular pace] Maybe the illusion of 3D space could help?
 : [Regular pace] Help out around the house? Sweep up our sentences? I was thinking of adding speech balloons and thought bubbles.
 : [Regular pace] To give the diagrams a chance to speak?
 : Oh, but what was I just saying? Hm^{//}mmmm [-3s] [Slow] Oh yeah, what are they of?
 : Hm^{//}mmmm [-3s]. [Pause-4s] They're of one phrase after another – I guess.
 : Soooooooooo, not one-on-top-of-the-other?
 : [Regular pace] It could be rearranged?
 : But maybe it dismisses the side-to-side? Do you think that is, like, possibly a problem?
 : [Regular pace] Yeah, gravitational pulls, [Pause-5s] [Slow] and what-not.
 : [Pause-5s] [Slow] And what-not.
 : [Slow, looking around at audience] Maybe that's why the diagonal makes sense? 45 degrees, a gentle slope, not too grandiose and pretty even-handed.

 ) *Leave their positions, exit stage left (behind the slope.) Enter stage right, rearrange the audience, rhythmic cough. Exit stage left, enter stage right. Return to  ,  reorients script and props on slope (casually).*

△ : [Fast] Its funny, but just the way things are.

▽ : [Fast] Funny? But, just the ways things are?

~ : [Regular pace] It's so hard to get a word in with you two.

△ : Ah sorry, can't you seen we're having a conversation.

~ : *Readjusts on slope, leans arm above head height.* Since when did conversation dictate two?

▽ : It's just we're trying to nut out a problem in dialogue.

△ : Oh, but what was I just [Pause-3s] saying? Oh yeah, what are they of?

▽ : // Saying? Oh yeah, what are they of?

~ : // Saying? Oh yeah, what are they of?

△ : But.
//
▽ : But.

△ : But where are you on the diagonal?

△ : [Laughs] *Laugh movement.*

~ *Reorients script and stands up straight* | *facing* △ ▽

| : *Arms raised.* [Louder] I'm just trying to get perpendicular to the horizontal. You know, upright.

▽ : [Regular pace] Why don't you just relax?

△ : At least he's not algorithmic. But why not recline?

↙ : *Stuck in the beginning of a movement.* I don't want to end up off kilter.

▽ : What are you suggesting?

△ : [Fast] What exactly are you trying to say? At least point us in the general direction.

↖ : *Finishes movement by stretching to feet.* [Slow] All I'm saying is, perhaps there's security in having your feet firmly on the ground.

◇ : [Slower] Is there, uncertainly, about the security of our situation?

▽ : [Regular pace] It's a new outlook. From here we can see both above and below.

↖ : [Immediately] And besides, what were you just saying? [Regular pace] Oh yeah, what are they of?

▽ : They're of one phrase after another – I guess.

⌘ : [Pause-8s] Certainly.

⌘ : //
Certainly.

↙ : Certainty.

△ ▽ ↙ *Exit stage left (behind the slope.) Enter stage right, rearrange the audience, rhythmic cough. Exit stage left.
Remain backstage and agree.*