

2-10 people may perform this piece. Each person reads any one page (pages are numbered simply for reference). The text is whispered, very distinctly, but not urgently. The whisper must be voiceless - not a low murmur. Fragments of words are spoken as in the original sentence (the first line of each page); for example the ce of silence is a very short ss sound, not the sound sir. The t of Castle is not pronounced when the word is broken into Cast-le, etc. A period mark represents a short pause, slightly longer at the end of lines.

The voices are to be amplified to a moderate level - not loud. Except where there are only 2 or 3 performers, there should preferably be at least 4 channels (microphone(s), amplifier, loudspeaker). Loudspeakers should be placed fairly close together where one or two people are sharing one channel, further apart where more are sharing - ie. it should not be possible for a listener to 'follow' any one voice. To this end, volume levels must be carefully equalised.

In performance, one person starts reading, the others joining in as soon as they hear him start. All should end at much the same time. When there are few performers, duration is around 90 seconds. When there are many, the texts may be read slightly slower - duration may be nearer 120 seconds.

The generating sentence of the piece is taken from 'The Burrow' by Franz Kafka, translated by Willa and Edwin Muir.

The murmurous silence of the Castle Keep.
The murm. The silence of the Castle Keep.
The murmur. silence of the Castle Keep.
The murmurous silence of the Castle Keep.
The murmurous si.
The mur.
The murmurous silence of the. Castle Keep.
The mur.
The murous silence si of the Castle Keep.
The murous si of si the Castle. lence. Keep.
The si. The murmurous si of si of lence.
The of the Castle Keep.
The murm.
The rous silence of the Castle Keep si.
The rous mur of si the Castle lence. Keep.
The murm si of ur the lence ous Castle Keep.
The ous of si of murm of the lence Castle Keep.
The of the.
The murmurous silence.
The mur. The mur. The mur. The mur si.
The silence of the mur.
The.
The Castle Keep.