**There are two important ways that we can break the rules to our advantage.**

**Dissonance  
The chords of C major and A minor consist of the notes:**

**C major A minor**

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Play a chromatic scale first over C major, then A minor. Which notes clash the most with the chord underneath? Are there any that you particularly like the sound of? If you like, write out two chromatic scales (one beginning and ending on C, the other beginning and ending on A) and circling the dissonant notes that you would like to play around with.

**C major**

**A minor**  


**Think about how you would like to resolve the clash – which is the nearest note you could land on that would complement the chord below?**

Now try your ideas out over the following 8 bar chord progression:

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**Free Rhythm**Using the same chord progression as above, play deliberately out of time with the accompaniment. Before beginning, decide at which point you will come back in time with the accompaniment. Experiment with doing this in different places, and even multiple times during the phrase. If you are playing with a partner, get them to try and signal when you need to come back in time. Communication between musicians is very important when improvising.

**If you didn’t find this exercise challenging, try using both dissonance and free rhythm at the same time. If you like, you could also experiment with making “ugly” sounds as demonstrated in the video**