

Comic Cut-Ups Group Exercise

Time Required

20-30 Minutes

Key Concepts

- Communication
- Group Interaction
- Problem Solving
- Team Effort
- Trust

Materials

For this game, you will need:

- Teams of 4
- Comic Strips (attached)
- Colored Paper
- Card Stock
- Envelopes
- A Clock or Timer

Preparation

Prepare answer keys and puzzle sets:

1. Print out the comic strips onto colored paper (1 copy per team). These will be used as answer keys.
2. Print out the comic strips onto card stock (1 copy per team). Each copy will become a set of puzzle pieces.
3. Prepare the puzzle pieces by cutting each card stock sheet into 16 separate pieces (1 comic panel = 1 puzzle piece).
4. Keeping each set of 16 pieces together, mix up the pieces and randomly place 4 pieces in each of 4 envelopes, numbered 1 through 4.
5. Each team needs one complete set of 4 envelopes containing the 16 pieces.

The Exercise

Objective

To encourage participants to work in teams following prescribed rules to sequence a series of comic strip panels without talking.

Process

1. Instruct participants to form teams of 4. Distribute a set of envelopes to each group giving 1 envelope to each person.
2. Explain that the purpose of the game is for each team to form 4 different 4-panel comic strips, positioned in the proper sequence. Each team member will complete 1 comic strip. Teams will have 10 minutes to complete the activity.
3. During the activity, participants are NOT allowed to talk. Players may give their puzzle piece to another player by handing it to the person they wish to receive it. A player may not point to a piece to indicate that he or she wants it, nor can a player put a piece into another person's puzzle.
4. Signal for the activity to begin, and note various group interactions.
5. Indicate when the 10-minute time period is up, and then distribute 1 copy of the answer key to each team to review its answers.
6. Lead a group discussion about the exercise.

Discussion

- How well did your team accomplish the task?
- How did you as an individual feel about participating in this exercise?
- What were your reactions to not being able to talk?
- Did everyone follow the rules? Why?
- Did you feel a sense of cooperation and trust within your group? Why or why not?
- How does this activity translate to your everyday experiences?

