

Forbidden!

This activity focuses on communication and getting an effective message across. All too often we consider ourselves to be good speakers. The reality is that depending, upon the situation we are faced with, we sometimes need to adapt how we communicate rather than use a 'blanket approach'.

Trainer's Instructions:

Ask delegates individually how good they consider themselves to be at communication – at getting the message across

- Split them into groups and ask each group to nominate a group speaker
- Using the FORBIDDEN words that follow (on the handouts) allocate one series of words to each group
- The nominated speaker for each group then comes forward one by one and will attempt to get their group to identify as many of the bold words as possible in one minute
- As the nominated speaker is describing their designated series of words to his/her group they must not use any of the words under the key word. If they inadvertently say one of these other words then the speaker must move on as they have failed with describing that key word
- The Trainer will need to give each speaker a series of words to use, but they must return this after use. As they are communicating the words the Trainer will need to watch for any restricted words being said
- The group that gets the most right in 3 minutes wins
- After all three groups have had a go start a 5 minute discussion as to what was happening. Use the learning/discussion points to assist you
- Do stress to delegates that whilst it was a bit of fun it is a vehicle to help show the potential pitfalls of communication. Make sure you thank everyone for participating.

HANDOUT - GROUP ONE

FRAGMENT
Small
Part
Shatter
Piece
Splinter

AERIAL
Chimney
Roof
Television
Reception
Antenna

OVERTIME
Work
Extra
Hours
Earn
Employee

ENVELOPE
Letter
Address
Stamps
Postman
Window

FORTRESS
Moat
Drawbridge
Keep
Attack
Defence

TOILET ROLL
Paper
Bathroom
Puppy
Wipe
Nose

WARDROBE
Bedroom
Hang
Mirror
Clothes
Cupboard

EXTENSION LEAD
Cable
Plug
Socket
Electric
Long

HANDOUT - GROUP TWO

PEG
Washing
Wooden
Clothes
Round
Square

WORKAHOLIC
Office
Hours
Home
Always
Obsession

BOOKCASE
Furniture
Wood
Shelves
Library
Keep

GROUNDSHEET
Camping
Tent
Waterproof
Grass
Back-Pack

WELDING
Metal
Joining
Gas
Flame
Repair

STATELY HOME
Country
Aristocracy
House
Building
Large

HOUSE WARMING
Home
Party
Friends
Invitation
New

LEAK
Water
Gas
Mend
Plumber
Document

HANDOUT - GROUP THREE

D.I.Y
Decorate
Home
Build
Handy
Job

DOORMAT
Wipe
Step
Welcome
Mud
Feet

LODGER
Pay
Room
Rent
Live
House

STICK
Twig
Glue
Wood
Insect
Walking

AIR-CONDITIONING
Cool
Building
Hot
Cinema
Temperature

GAS
Methane
North Sea
Natural
Cooking
Heating

SPLINTER
Wood
Sharp
Painful
Glass
Sliver

TRICKLE
Liquid
Drip
Stream
River
Water

Learning/Discussion points:

- Why did some group members struggle to understand the message?
- Was the speaker making too many assumptions or rushing through?
- Did the speaker speak in a language the listener could understand?
- Did the speaker use all possible methods for getting the message across or did they try to describe it using their hands as well? (The instructions do not say they can't. They could have even used a paper and drawn it if they wished)
- How difficult is it to convey a message which you clearly understand because you can see it but the other person doesn't understand because they can't see it. (Very applicable to many conversations over the phone)
- How often does this happen in your normal working environment?