

Icebreakers/Mixers

You can find many icebreakers on the Internet by using a search website such as Google. Here are some others:

-Bingo: Have a bingo type game where you have a grid and you write different things in each box like "has green eyes", then go around and have to find a person who fits that box and have them sign it. When you are through with the boxes (usually about 15 boxes) you end up knowing a lot of weird facts about the other people.

-Silent Identification: Each participant is asked to either write words or draw pictures that describe themselves. This is done silently. Then they pin the picture on their chests, walk around and have everyone look each other over. Pictures are then shuffled and participants are asked to identify the person to which the picture belongs.

-Pairs Game: Make up pairs or groups of people that go together (Mickey Mouse/Minnie Mouse, Barbie/Ken). Give each person a card with one of the group or pairs on it. The pairs or groups must find their match. When they find each other, they must discuss the best program (or class) they have been to and the qualities that made it a good program (or class). Then they turn the card over, find their new pair and then go through the same process.

-Name Game: Sit in a circle. One person starts by using an adjective starting with the same letter as their first name, followed by their first name (i.e. Clever Claire, Kind Karen) The next person and following has to repeat the first person's adjective and name and then add their own. Continue around the circle and the last person has to repeat all other names in order and end with their own.

-Human Knot: Have a group of 5-15 stand very close together. Tell them to reach out their arms so all hands are jumbled and intertwined. Tell them to grab one hand in each of their hands, but not the one of the persons next to them. Now they are a human knot and must use teamwork to untangle themselves into one circle without letting go of their hands.

-Toilet Tissue: Have each team member take a length of tissue from the roll. Only after all have taken some, tell them for each panel of tissue they have to say one positive thing about themselves. (you could vary what they have to do or say for each tissue square, tailored to your objective) (variation: use M&M's-for each color they have to say one thing, e.g., yellow: something sunny about themselves, red: an embarrassing moment.)

-Two True One False: Go around the group letting everyone say two true statements about themselves and one false. The rest of the group has to guess which one is false. You may be surprised - you can learn some crazy things about each other!

-Web Game: Take a ball of yarn and have the person who starts hold one end and wrap it around their wrist. Next, they throw the yarn to another team member and either say something positive about that person or they say something that person did to inspire them. When you are done, you have bracelets of yarn that you are supposed to wear until they fall off.

-Balloon Game #1: Each member writes one piece of information about them and puts the slip of paper in a balloon, then blows it up and throws it in the middle of the circle of participants. Then one by one, pop the balloons and guess to whom that piece of information belongs.

-Balloon Game #2: Pass one balloon around the circle and have each person write a question on that balloon. Then pass the balloon around the circle and each person has to answer three questions on the balloon.

-Hug Tag: This is a cooperative version of "regular" tag. Designate a few people to be "freezers". Then tell everyone else to scatter in all directions. The freezers count to ten, and then take off after the runners. Once they tag a runner that person becomes one of the freezers. A player is safe from being tagged only when he or she is hugging another player.

-Non-verbal birthday lineup: Ask everyone to line up according to the month and day of birth without any talking. This should inspire some interesting means of communication towards a common goal.

-Fast Lemon: Divide the group into two or more equal lines. Then give the leader of each line a full-length pencil and a full-grown lemon. As the teams line up single file, mark a starting line and finish line on the floor (about 20 feet away at most). The object is to push the lemon with the pencil along the floor in a straight line-if you can. Each player must push it to the finish line and back to the next teammate in line. The team to finish first wins. What you discover is that the lemon always keeps rolling, despite a slight wobble. You'll have trouble keeping it in your lane, so be sure the furniture is pushed back.

-Psychiatrist: Select some one from the group to be "psychiatrist" and then send them out of the room. The remaining members of the group choose a 'problem' that needs to be solved. For example, each person assumes the characteristics of the person to his or her right. For example, if asked the color of the "patient's" hair, the person questioned would say blonde if that is the hair color of the person on their right. The psychiatrist has to guess the problem.

-Fruit Basket Turn Over: Seat players in a circle. One person stands in the center. Each player is given the name of a fruit. The person in the middle calls out the name of two fruits. The two people must quickly change seats. The person in the middle also tries to reach one of the seats. The one left standing then calls the name of two other fruits. He or she may also call "fruit basket turnover" and everyone must change seats.

-Lifesaver Relay: Divide group into two teams. Give everyone a toothpick to hold between his or her teeth. place a lifesaver on the toothpick of the first person on each side. The game

begins. The lifesaver is passed from person to person by lining up the toothpicks so that the lifesaver slides onto the next person's toothpick. No one can use their hands. Should a lifesaver be dropped, that team begins again with the first person. The first team to relay a lifesaver to the end of the line is the winner.

-Banana Race: Give each player a banana with the instruction to peel and eat it while holding one hand behind their back (they only need to take one bite of the banana) on a given signal they begin. The first one, who takes a bite and then whistles, wins.

-Balloon Bust: Have all players tie one balloon around each of their ankles. The object is to burst your opponent's balloons while keeping yours whole.

-Paper Bag Skits- first split your group into teams consisting of three to six members. give each team a paper bag filled with assorted objects. These can be almost anything, i.e. a wooden spoon, a screw, a bar of soap, a computer disk, etc... The object of the game is to present a skit using all of the props provided. The props may be used as they would be in normal life, or they may be imaginatively employed. Give each group a topic to base their skit on. When all the skits have been planned and rehearsed they are performed for the amusement of all.

Human Machines: Each group acts out a machine with sound effects (i.e. telephone, fax, washing machine, dryer, blender, typewriter, stereo, airplane), while others guess.

-Improv: Each group acts out a skit with different themes. (i.e. desert, solar system, north pole, wild west), while other guess.

-Killer: Walk around and shake hands. When the killer shakes your hand, you must fall to the ground and 'die' others must guess who the killer is. (the killer adds a tickle when shaking hands)

-Black Magic: Needs two people who know the game. One person(who knows the game) leaves the room while the rest of the group decides what object that person needs to guess. They return and the leader (who knows the game) asks "is this it?, is that it?" about many objects. The person who is guessing continuously says no until the leader points to an object that is black. The NEXT object is the one that the person needs to identify and say, "yes that's the object the group picked." Play the game till someone figures out how it is done.

-Animal Match: Upon entering the room, everyone is given a card with an animal on it (make sure there are two of every animal). On the count of three, everyone makes their animal noise and tries to find their partner.

-Backlash Relay: Players pair off and stand back to back with elbows hooked. One player holds a balloon. Pairs race to one end, transfer the balloon to the other person without unhooking elbows and then race back.

-Caterpillar Race: Line up behind each other bent at the waist and holding the ankles of the person in front of you. Try to move forward as a team. If someone loses the ankle grip, the caterpillar must stop until everyone is intact.

-Icicle Hunt: Hide icicles (strings of different lengths). Winner is the one whose icicles form the longest line when laid out end to end, not the one with the most icicles.

-Same Letter: With each letter of the alphabet try to come up with a male name, female name, food, and place. For example, "A my name is Alfred, my wife's name is Angela, we grow apples in Atlanta."

-Sentence Game: Everyone splits up into groups and each group gets a sentence. Each group must make up a story that ends in that sentence. The crazier, the better!!! (Example: And that is why you can't trust an AZA an inch above the knee.)

- Bridge game: There are 4 people acting as the bridge goblins. Two people are standing on the same side, about 4 feet apart, and then on the other side there are two people facing them. Now the point of the game is for the rest of the group to cross this bridge as many times as possible, without going off the bridge. The trick is that each person cannot walk the same walk; they each have to be different. And if they're not, the bridge goblins eat them.

- If you love me baby, smile: Everyone sits in a circle, and one person goes up to somebody in the group and tries to make them smile by saying, "if you love me baby, smile" and they are not allowed to touch the person at all. They may make funny faces or whatnot. If the person does not smile or laugh, they will reply, "I love you baby, but I just can't smile". And if the person succeeds, the person they made smile moves on, and if they lose, they have to go to another person.

- Movie Ball game: Everyone stands in a circle and bounces a ball to somebody else, and has a five second limit to do so. But before bouncing the ball they must say a name of a movie. When somebody repeats a movie name, they are out of the game. It eventually ends up being a competition between two people, and then there's a winner.

- Freeze: This game usually starts off with two people up on "stage". The other members give them a subject matter, and they have to act it out, as an improvisation. Then at an ideal moment, usually after a minute or two, another member can call out freeze, and both of the actors have to freeze on their spot. The member who called out freeze has to go in and take the place (the exact position) of one of the members, and has to start a completely different and unrelated scene.

- Digging game: The members sit in a circle of chairs and there is one person standing and does not have a chair. The person in the middle asks a question, like "who has brown hair?" and everyone who does has to get up and switch seats. The person in the middle has to go and find a seat, which in turn will leave somebody else in the middle without a chair to ask a question. The catch is that the people changing seats (this applies to each

individual round) cannot move to the seat on either side of them, or if they get up and can't find a seat, they cannot return to the seat where they just sat. This is a great way to "dig" up some information, on people you don't know.

- **Space Leap:** It starts off with one person in the middle, and they create a little scene for themselves. Then somebody leaps into the scene and starts a completely different scene. Then a third person comes in and does the same, as does the fourth person afterwards. The "scene" had to find away to kick out the fourth person and then the scene has to change back to the scene that third person created. And then the same occurs, until all three of the members are kicked out and remains the first member doing the scene they started off with.

- **Sports Broadcaster:** You take two things, an object and a sport, like toothbrush and basketball. The sport now created is toothbrush basketball. There will be the offensive team and the defensive team. There will be a broadcaster for both. So the teammates have to play and act it out silently while the broadcasters interpret the game.

- **Shoulda Said:** There is a circle of people with two or three people in the middle. They are acting out a scene that the other members have chosen for them. And then at any point in their scene, the other members that are watching may call out "shoulda said" and the actor that it was called on has to say either the opposite of what he/she meant, or what they were really thinking. For example, I say "I love that dress you're wearing!" and somebody calls shoulda said on me. I could say "that dress would look much better on my pet rat". And of course the other actors in the scene will have not heard your extra comment. This is a really fun game!

- **ZIPZAPZOP:** Everyone stands around in a circle and puts their guns together. Each gun has three bullets, a zip bullet, a zap bullet and a zop bullet. Now, the person who starts turns to person B and goes Zip, then person B must turn to someone and says Zap and they must turn to somebody and say Zop. There isn't any specific order, and there may be rallying between two people. But the catch is that one may not hesitate or they will be out of the game.

- **Movie word game:** Everyone sits in a circle while one person goes out of the room. They have to decide on a movie title. Take the title, "I know what you did last summer". Now each person in the circle is given a word from the title. When the person comes back in, they all switch places. Then the person outside asks somebody a question, and that person has to answer with their word in their sentence. Example: if I have the word "Know" and I am asked what color my hair is, I could say, well I know that my hair is the color brown.

- **The MOO game:** This is sort of complicated, read carefully. There is a group of people in a circle. One person goes out of the room and the game is explained to the others. What happens is when that person comes back they will be given three chances to figure out who the MOO leader is. The MOO leader is the person who is mooing the loudest of them all (in reality there is nobody the first time). On the third try, whoever says "Moo" the loudest, he is automatically right. So then somebody else goes outside (person B), and the first person

becomes the MOO leader, so he actually has to moo louder than everyone else. So person B comes back in and has three chances to guess who the MOO leader is. Person B is in on the secret the whole time, so he does not choose the person the first two times. So the first two times, the MOO leader screams really loud. The third time (Everyone is told this while he was outside the first time, that on the third time, of the second round, nobody is supposed to scream EXCEPT for the MOO leader). Everyone pretends to scream, and then it is only the MOO leader who screams the loudest of everyone. In turn he becomes embarrassed, and everyone laughs! This is one of the funniest games possible.