



HOW DO I PLAY THE GAMES I PLAYED TODAY?



Table Draw –

This is a great activity to mix up the seating arrangements at your event. Whatever your theme is Tropical, Sports, Business, etc. create names for each table and have the guest draw a table name when they enter. This is where they will sit and will get to meet other people! Great way to break up those cliques!

Examples today: Boarding Pass for Tropical Destination Table Names, Sports Candy with Sports Table Names

Button Match –

Give each attendee a button when they enter the room. This button (or you can use stickers/labels) can have your logo on it or you can even sell “sponsorship” rights to have someone else’s logo on the buttons. Each button will also have a number on it. They will all be different numbers except a certain number of matching numbers (set by you to limit the number of prizes you give away). The object is to find your match in the crowd and since no one knows who actually has the matching numbers, everyone will be networking! Once a person finds their match, they bring them to the host and each receives a prize.

The Chain Gang –

This is a great way for people to introduce themselves around the room and learn a little more about each other. First you have the leader start with: “Hi! I am (insert name) from (insert Business/Organization) and (insert fact about themselves!” Example: “Hi! I am Susie Cutie from ABC Company and I am a HUGE Ohio State Fan!” Then have someone in the audience who has the same fact in common stand up and say “Hi! I am (insert name) from (insert Business/Organization) and that was (Name of Previous Person & their company) and I (insert fact about themselves)!” Then another person from the group who has that fact in common with them stands up and says “Hi! I am (insert name) from (insert Business/Organization) and that was (Name of Previous Person) and I (insert fact about themselves)!” This continues on until the whole room has introduced themselves. If someone says a fact and there is no one who has that in common, they must say another fact until someone with a match can be found. After the game, you can also make the objective that everyone meets with the two people they had something in common with.

7/11 Card Game –

A great ice breaker to get people talking & moving around is the 7/11 game. Each participant gets 1 playing card and it is up to everyone to form into groups that add up to 7 or 11 based on the number on their card. (Aces & Face Cards are worth 1 point.) This is also a great way to get people into teams for another activity. There are many variations of this game, another being that people want to make the best poker hand with the other participants.

T-Shirt Activity –

This is a group activity that can get individuals thinking outside the box. Have the participants create a t-shirt (hat, poster, etc.) reflecting either the theme of the event, marketing idea for the chamber, etc. Give each group markers, glue, glitter, crayons, feathers, paint & whatever else you can think of! You can also get some free marketing ideas from this activity! Once the t-shirts are made, have someone from each team model them for the group!

Penny 4 Thought –

Place a penny under the seats of some unsuspecting guests. At the end of the event/meeting, ask that person to share a thought about the event whether it’s an idea they are taking away with them or something they are going to do.

Best List Ever!

(Of Event Themes!)

Animal Kingdom	Under the Sea	Renaissance
Back to the Basics	Western Round Up	Rome Party
Backwards	Wet & Wild	Sea
Boot camp	Wizard of Oz	Science Fiction
Bugs & Frogs	20s - Twenties Flapper	Space Party
Dance	40's Swing/Jazz Era	Sports s
Disney	50's Sock Hop	Baseball
Dream Vacation	60's - Sixties	Basketball
Fairy Tales	70's Disco	Football
Halloween	80's - Eighties	Hockey
Happy Holidays	90's - Nineties	Olympics
Harry Potter	Africa Party	Tropical Beach
Hawiiian/Luau	Alien	Underwater
Hollywood	Arabian Nights - Aladdin	Vaudeville Party
Jungle Fever	Around the world in 80	Winter Wonderland
Kidnap	days party	Ninja Turtles
Mad Hatter Tea Party	Austin Powers	<u>Oscar Theme Props</u>
Magic	Baseball	Oktoberfest
Mardi Gras	Beach Party	Oriental Fantasy
Medieval/Renaissance	China Party	Pacific Rim
Mission Impossible	Circus or Cirque' Party	Phantom of the Opera
Mystery/Who-Dun-It?	Egypt Party	Picnic in the Park
Mystery Dinner	French	Raiders of the Lost Ark
Native American	Futuristic Party	<u>Renaissance/Medieval</u>
Olympics	Game Show	Rhinestone Roundup
Pioneer	Greek Mythology	Roman Toga
Road Trip - Tour the USA	Hollywood Party	The Simpsons
Scavenger Hunt	Indian Party	Speakeasy
Seasons	Italy - Italian	
Spa/Pampering	Karaoke Party	
Space/Stars	Las Vegas	
Survivor	Mardi Gras	
Teddy Bear Tea	Mediterranean Party	
Time Machine	Military Party	
Traveling Across the USA	Monte Carlo	
Treasure in Paradise	Mystery Party	
Troop Beverly Hills	Nautical	
Turn Beauty Inside Out	New Orleans	

Ice Breaker Ideas & Games!

Icebreaker games and activities are a great way to break up the monotony of a meeting, seminar, or class. Icebreakers are also the perfect opportunity to ease people through the discomfort that comes with getting to know strangers.

A well-chosen icebreaker game can relax the mood, but a poorly chosen icebreaker can have the opposite effect, making people feel nervous and uncomfortable. These do's and don'ts will help you choose the right kind of icebreakers for your event.

Do's

- Do use icebreakers to create a more relaxed environment.
- Do use icebreakers as topic lead-ins during class and meetings.
- Do choose the right game for the right group.
- Do make sure that you have the right amount of people for the game that you choose.
- Do make the instructions for the icebreaker as simple as possible.
- Do keep your eye on the participants. Make sure that they are having fun.
- Do be ready to improvise if necessary.
- Do have a back-up plan. If the icebreaker isn't working, you will need it.

Don'ts

- Don't introduce an icebreaker game that will make others uncomfortable- physically or mentally.
- Don't underestimate the time it will take to complete the icebreaker game or activity.
- Don't forget to bring all of the materials that you need.
- Don't limit icebreakers to the beginning of a meeting/class. Use them to revitalize the group at any time.
- Don't force people to participate.
- Don't forget to keep track of which ice breakers work and which ones don't.
- Don't choose complicated icebreakers. Keep it simple.

Line-Up

This icebreaker game begins when the group is divided into groups of eight or more. Once groups are divided, the leader then instructs the groups to line-up in order of height, shoe size, or some other light-toned denominator to keep the game fun for all. When the group has lined-up in a particular order, they are then supposed to clap to let the leader know that they are done. The first group to clap wins that round. This is a good way to learn something you never would have thought to ask about someone.

Constructive Feedback

This icebreaker begins when you ask for a volunteer to come to the front. Position the volunteer facing the audience and place an empty cardboard box behind them, but not directly behind them. Have 30 pieces of crumpled paper within arms reach of volunteer. It is the group's responsibility to give the volunteer hints on how to get the wads of paper into the box without turning around. Example "a little bit more to the right". When that person has gotten 3 pieces into the box successfully, then find another volunteer and continue.

Animals

The objective of this icebreaker is to get acquainted with others. Write the name of some distinctive sounding animals on slips of paper. Create 5 to 10 slips for each animal. Hand the slips out and ask the participants to find all the same animals without talking. This makes for a fun way to get acquainted.

Talk Show Icebreaker

For this icebreaker game, you will want to start by splitting your group into pairs.

Ask each person to find a semi-private spot and interview their partner. One acts as a talk show host and the other acts as a guest. The talk show host has to find out two interesting facts about the guest. Afterwards, the partners switch roles and repeat the activity.

After a few minutes and a lot of chatting, you can ask everyone to gather into a large group once more. Then, have each person (briefly) present the two interesting facts that they learned about their partner.

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DESTINATION:

WELCOME!

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18A

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9:00 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

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How to Plan a Networking Event

By Jessica Haberman, eHow Editor

When it comes to planning a networking event, you want to choose a place that can comfortably accommodate your group but which also has something to offer to attendees that can help boost attendance. Remember to offer food and drink, to collect business cards at the door, and to keep people's interest until the end. For the most part, people know what to do—talk to everyone else in the room—and all you have to do is make it easier for them to make the rounds.

Preparing for the event...

Step1 Choose a location. It should be large enough for your group, have lots of area for people to mingle, and should draw interest on its own. Ideal spots are places like theaters, art galleries, privately-owned hotels, and shops featuring local goods.

Step2 Ask if the host can provide food and drink. If not, talk to local caterers, restaurants, and liquor stores. Ask if they would be willing to donate goods and/or services for the event. If the event supports a particular cause, explain how their donation will help raise money for the cause. If you must buy food and drink, talk the price down by inviting their employees to the event.

Step3 Ask if the host would be willing to donate a door prize. A theater might offer a four-pack of tickets to the next show, for instance. Otherwise, see if your company has any remaining gifts from past events, like monogrammed umbrellas or golf balls. Guests feel like they got a good value if they don't leave empty-handed.

Step4 Announce your event. Make an announcement in the local newspaper, your company's website, and in email blasts to potentially interested parties.

Step5 Register your guests. You may allow advanced registration over the phone. Decide the types of payment you can accept and keep an organized registration list indicating who has signed up, the name of their company, if they paid in advance, and their method of payment. If you allow guests to register and pay at the door, leave space in the registration list for last-minute attendees.

At the event...

Step1 Get attention. Put up signs that lead attendees to the right location and entrance if necessary.

Step2 Collect payment. One to two people should be able to handle the task of collecting money, writing receipts when requested, and checking people in.

Step3 Collect business cards for the door prize. While you have your guests' attention, tell them more about your event, about your host, or about your company.

Step4 Lay out name tags in alphabetical order by last name. Guests can pick theirs out if they choose to wear one. For those who pay at the door, have blank name tags and magic markers so they can make one out for themselves. (Also see my article "How to Create Name Tags in Microsoft Word.")

Step5 Finger food is always a big hit. Have food distributed throughout the space or have servers to bring food around to your guests. Drinks should be offered from one central bar location (or a few).

Step6 Consider themed events to draw different types of crowds. Allow your guests to mingle. Join in conversations, but do not try to manage them. Be available to answer questions about your company and event. Remind people to drop off their business cards for a chance to win the door prize.

Step7 Get on with your program. If the event is solely for networking, this is a chance to introduce yourself. Remember to thank your guests for attending, your host, and any other people who have helped to coordinate the event. If your program is more involved, explain the plan for the evening. Remember to remind your guests about upcoming events.

Step8 Choose a business card from the collection to reveal the winner(s) of the door prize. He should be present to receive it.

Step9 Wrap up the event. If you have a set end time, it will usually dwindle down on its own. If you are cleaning up and packing things away, people will get the idea. If they do not, circulate and thank everyone again for attending.

Step10 Clean up. Remember to leave your space as clean as it was when you arrived.

Tips & Warnings...

- Organize two registration lists: one by last name and one by company.
- Leave information, like brochures and pamphlets, available for guests to take away with them as they enter and leave.
- Make signs with useful information so you don't have to repeat yourself over and over. Consider making signs that say "Drop your business card here to win our door prize" and "Thank you to our host."
- Don't drink and drive, and don't let your guests do it either.
- If you allow people to show up and get billed later, make sure you get all their accurate contact information, including the company name and phone number.

For a networking icebreaker, hand out a piece of paper to every person that attends. Have everyone think of a question that you would like an answer to about networking or business building.

examples:

Where do you save the most money on printing?

What was your best personal development book that you've read?

What business or personal event (trade shows, rotary club, sports events) do you get the most leads from?

Write your question down on paper. Put the paper in a container, mix them up and hand them back out to your participants. Each person will answer the question and pass it to the person on their right, who will also answer the question. When all the questions are answered, hand them back in and talk about each question out loud. You can get some great tips.

Everyone could share a challenge they have (like a staff person who's performance is declining), see who has related challenges, and group everyone together to brainstorm for 10 minutes..

This really isn't a networking game but it does help to address a "need".

Have participants take 5 minutes to write down on full sized paper.

Name

Company or career

1 hobby

1 -3 personal values

Then have them hang the info using masking tape on the front of their bodies. Then, they then circulate and discover info about each other.

Be very clear up front that they need to move reasonably quickly from person to person... the tendency is to carry on long conversations, thus defeating the objective.

Give everyone a piece of paper, and ask them to write an answer to a question you give them. Could be as simple as why they came to the networking meeting today, or their favorite movie or flavor of icecream. Then have them all crumple up their paper, and throw it into the center of the room. Then ask each of them to grab a piece of paper (not their own) and return to their seats. Go around the room and ask each person to read the answer on their paper.

This might not qualify as networking or a networking game, but it does get everyone more comfortably socially. If you pick a good question (or maybe two), you set people up to follow up with each other.

Completed Thought

After giving each person a pen & paper, explain that participants will be listening to a list of incomplete sentences. They will write down the statement and then finish the thought in their own words. For example, "If I could volunteer full-time, I would..." The facilitator reads a total of 10 incomplete sentences, giving a minute in between each for folks to write down their answers.

When the writing has finished, re-read each statement and have participants answer. Answers can be commented on and discussed. If there are a large number of people, you may want to break people into small groups to report out.

Sample statements:

- A. Today I wish I were...
- B. The main reason I am here...
- C. When I think of service, I...
- D. I choose friends who are...
- E. I think my best quality is...
- F. Today I am planning to learn...
- G. A pet peeve of mine is...

One networking game that I like to use with new groups is to have them stand up and quickly form groups of 3-4 people each. The task of each small group is to find three things that they have in common, outside of work (e.g., likes/dislikes, family, geography, etc.). The group to do this in the shortest amount of time wins.

With this networking game, everyone in the room is charged with finding one other person they don't already know and then asking and answering the following questions (or some variation, substitute your own):

- 1) Name?
- 2) What company do you represent?
- 3) What role do you play for that company?
- 4) Where were you born?
- 5) What's your favorite (fill in the blank: food, restaurant, leisure-time activity, book, etc.)?
- 6) If you could be anywhere doing anything at this very moment, where would you be, and what would you be doing?

You have the people record the answers of the other person, and then after this portion is over, they introduce each other to the rest of the group, including the other person's answers to those questions. We've always had a great amount of "ice-breaking" fun with this, particularly that last question, because it generates some interesting and fun answers.

Human Scavenger Hunt

Create a table with two columns: "Signature" or "Initials" and "Task" with the items listed below in that column. Find a person or persons for each item. Have them sign your page after completing the item. Do not have anybody sign your page more than twice! Extra points if you get the initials of everyone present.

TASKS

1. Find someone with a penny. Have them give it to you.
2. Find someone who went on vacation out of state last year.
3. Find the person in your group who was born the farthest away from here.
4. Find someone who is currently working towards an advanced college degree.
5. Find someone who has never been to Starbucks
6. Find someone who has visited 4 continents.
7. Find someone who has bungee jumped.
9. Find two people with the same middle name
10. Find someone who played a varsity sport in college.
13. Find someone who was a cheerleader.
14. Find someone who is a twin or triplet.
15. Find someone who will give you something other than a penny. What did they give you? _____.
16. Find someone who has lived on both coasts of the US.
17. Find someone who speaks two languages fluently.
18. Find someone with a last name beginning with "L".
19. Find someone who owns a pet.
20. Find someone who has a sister and a brother.
21. Find someone who has a tattoo.
22. Find someone who can juggle. Have them prove it.
23. Find someone whose birthday is in October.
24. Find someone who has been paid to sing
25. Find someone who knows the answer to the universe.
26. Find someone who can whistle the theme to the "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Everyone loves a good Scavenger Hunt. This is one of my all-time favorite networking games.

Business Card Bingo

This networking game works the same way as regular bingo except you use business cards.

Give a prize to the winners.