



PHILADELPHIA
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

VIRTUAL ICEBREAKERS

For Adult Remote Teams



ICEBREAKERS

An icebreaker is a team activity intended to help members of a group begin the process of forming themselves into a team. Icebreakers are commonly presented as a game to "warm up" the group by helping the members get to know each other and form relationships. They often focus on sharing personal information such as names, hobbies, etc. Icebreakers are a great way to start your virtual session or can be used intermittently to keep your attendees engaged and focused.



QUOTE SCRAMBLE

The person leading the activity will send a Google Slide that has a scrambled quote on it. Participants must work together to unscramble the quote and then discuss it in a large group. View an example [here](#).

CREDIT: CBOBS

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

Collaboration,
Communication

MATERIALS:

Scrambled quote

TIME:

5-10 minutes





MINUTE MYSTERIES

As attendees arrive, have a “minute mystery” pulled up on a shared screen or type it in the chat. Encourage participants to start engaging with one another to figure out the mysteries! Here are a few of our favorites.

(1) A woman wants to build a square house. She will have a window on each wall. Each window will face north. How is this possible?

Answer: The house is at the South Pole

(2) There is a pipe, a carrot and a pile of pebbles together in the middle of a field. Why?

Answer: It's the remains of a melted snowman!

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

Communication,
Problem solving

MATERIALS:

None

TIME:

5-10 minutes





YES...AND

The person leading the session will ask attendees to respond to a question such as "Should we have a picnic?"

In Part 1 of the activity, participants are asked to say "Yes, but..." before saying their statement. After 2-3 minutes, participants will be asked to respond with "Yes, and" before sharing their statement.

Bring everyone back and reflect on the two communication styles and how they may have seen this type of communication in their own meetings.

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

Collaboration,
Communication

MATERIALS:

None

TIME:

5-10 minutes





THIS OR THAT

Ask participants to write down answers to 5-7 "This or that" questions such as do you prefer "Mountains or beaches?" You can have a slide shared that asks participants to write down their answers down as they arrive. At the official start of the session, send a poll out for people to record their answer and share the results with everyone.

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**Decisiveness,
Getting To Know You**MATERIALS:**

None

TIME:

5-10 minutes





A CHICKEN, A FOX & CORN

The person leading the session will present the following logic puzzle to the group and then break a large group into smaller groups of 5-6 people to figure out the puzzle.

"Using a small canoe, how can you and your team transport a chicken, a fox and a bag of corn to the other side of the river in as few moves as possible. The solution must acknowledge three critical parameters:

- (1) The canoe can only carry the person rowing the boat and one item/animal at any point in time.
- (2) The fox and chicken cannot be left alone because the fox will eat the chicken; and
- (3) The chicken and the bag of corn cannot be left alone because the chicken will eat the corn. Answers to FAQs: the animals will not run away if left unattended.

After 10 minutes or when a decision has been made, invite the group to reflect on their problem solving skills and communication. View the solution [here](#).

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Collaboration,
Communication,
Problem Solving

MATERIALS:

None

TIME:

10 minutes





GO AROUND QUESTION

Start your meeting with a Go Around Question that everyone responds to. Here are some of our favorites!

- 1) What's your number one tip for combating distractions when working from home?
- 2) What's the last great TV show or movie you watched?
- 3) Best professional development book you've ever read?
- 4) If you could write a book, what genre would you write it in?
- 5) If you had your own talk show, who would you invite as your first guest?

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

LEARNING

OUTCOMES:

Communication,
Getting To Know You

MATERIALS:

None

TIME:

5-10 minutes





STORY OF YOUR NAME

Participants will tell the group the story of their name. The person leading the session may provide these questions to help guide the attendees in their response.

- Who are you named after and why?
- Where does your name originate from?
- Who named you?
- Who chose the spelling of your name?
- Does your name hold any special meaning for you or your family?
- Do you have any memories or stories about your name?
- What do you like about your name?
- If it is a name you chose for yourself, why did you choose this name in particular?

CATEGORY:

ICEBREAKER

AUDIENCE:

Adult

LEARNING

OUTCOMES:

Communication,
Getting To Know You

MATERIALS:

None

TIME:

10-15 minutes



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WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

**Schedule a virtual program session with our team
or start planning your next team building day.**

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