

# Online Ice Breakers

Ice breakers have always been contentious, some people love them and others run a mile at the mere mention.

There are a couple of rules we stick to when using ice breakers. Firstly never call the activity an ice breaker! Secondly, we make sure they always have a clear purpose e.g. to practice a new tool; help people get to know each other quickly; give information; create curiosity etc.

## So, here's our top ten simple ice breakers for small groups

Create a wordsearch related to your topic, split the group into two teams and ask them to complete it in different colours, most online training tools have some facility to annotate the screen. Quickest team / team with the most answers win.

If onscreen annotation isn't available, you could create a crossword and ask people to shout out answers or type them in chat.

Ask people to find one item in their environment that starts with the same letter as their first name (or 3 items if you want to make it more challenging).

This one works well with groups or teams that you know well. Have a 'most interesting' competition e.g. most interesting hat / background – this gives people the option to use a digital background if they want to protect their privacy.

## QUIZ

Have a quiz related to your topic, virtual prizes for the closest / fastest / funniest answers. Alternatively, ask your participants to pose questions to the group.

Ask people to choose their favourite quote relating to your topic, most online training tools have a variety of ways to vote e.g. chat, annotate, poll etc.

Set up an online whiteboard (many collaboration tools have these) and ask the group to draw a picture describing how they feel / what they know about the session's topic. If you're not brave enough to ask people to draw, you could ask them to bring a picture.

Have people 'shake off' any aches and pains by simply moving around. This can be particularly good in afternoon training sessions. Play a song and make it a disco!

Ask the group to type 'hello' into chat, in as many languages as they can.

Type into chat, what each person can see out of their window (for a bonus point you could ask them to relate it to the session's topic in a creative way).

