

Successful communication is not just about talking and listening and this training game proves that and much more!

Talking is not communicating – it is the quality of the talking taking into account the understanding of the listener that helps to ensure the intended message is received.

The Colourshapes set comprises of 6 different shapes repeated in 5 different colours making a total of 30 quality laminated plastic cards.

The cards are distributed to the participants except for 2 cards which the trainer keeps. Participants have to describe their shapes and colours to the others to discover the shape and colour of the 2 missing cards.

Some of the shapes in Colourshapes are similar and unless they are clear with their descriptions participants often assume their shape is the one being described by another participant.

Trust and honesty is also involved, because participants can look at their cards but not other peoples. Participants sit facing away from others, but they can turn around and try to cheat!

The interaction with others, problem solving and decision making that is required, reveals much of the participants behaviour.

This enjoyable game provides lots of learning and is an ideal training tool for use in any session about communication, telephone techniques, customer service, working remotely, teamwork, problem solving, influencing, selling and negotiating. It is also ideal as an ice-breaker or part of an assessment centre.

Colourshapes replicates many of the communication issues that occur in the workplace:

- Assumptions
- Conflict
- Muddled thinking
- Poor listening skills
- Barriers to communication
- Lack of understanding and team cohesion

Messages muddled by the sender, or misinterpreted by the recipient can cause tremendous confusion, wasted effort and missed opportunity.

If you have used the popular Coloublind team activity you will know of the benefits from using this training activity. Unlike Colourblind, Colourshapes does not require participants to be blindfolded. In the workplace we use our eyes to help us describe what we are talking about and Colourshapes allows you to do that.

How It Works

Arrange the room so the participants sit in a circle facing outwards so they cannot see each other properly.

Remove 2 of the plastic cards and the remainder are given to the participants.



Participants do not know how many cards, shapes or colours the group has. So their objective is to establish this and then discover the shape and colour of the missing cards.

Participants may not look at others' cards or pass the cards between group members.

Colourshapes is used by trainers to:

- make an impactful start to a training session or energize the group
- ensure that key learning points are soon discovered by the participants
- provide lots of material for the debrief
- discover the dynamics of the group and team culture
- ensure that participants learn by doing (action centred learning)
- develop key skills in communication, influencing, interpersonal skills, negotiating, problem solving, selling, teamwork and telephone techniques.



Benefits of Colourshapes:

- A short exercise that brings out many issues that will add benefit in the workplace
- Ensures that teams work together and value the contributions of ALL team members
- Covers a wide range of learning outcomes including problem solving and thinking skills
- Encourages participants to give each other feedback
- Simple to facilitate but challenging, enjoyable and meaningful to participants
- Is not language specific - participants can speak in their own language or use it to help their learning of a new language
- Supplied with everything you need to run the activity, including trainers notes and debrief material.

Timing: 15 to 40 minutes depending on the group.

Numbers: 4 to 28 participants (for each training activity) but most versatile with groups of 6 - 10 plus observers.

Who: Staff at any level.

PC required: None.

Licence Free: When you buy this training material, there are no restrictions on the number of times you can use it.

Cost to buy: You can buy this business game (which includes a trainer's manual) and use it yourself for £225 + delivery and VAT (if applicable).

We will also run this game for you, please contact us for details.

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