



# Icebreakers

Description	Encourage interaction and cohesion before formal generic skill (or other) activities
Task Type	Starter
Time	5 -30 minutes
Level	All
Class Size	Small or large groups (it works with 250 people and only a single facilitator! If you have tried it with more people let us know)
Method	<p>All the following are designed to get students talking to each other about as many different aspects of their lives and backgrounds as possible. The order suggested works from the whole group to pairs and then to groups. The final exercise introduces team work and is a lead in to the following session.</p> <p>1. Moving Groups Ask students to form groups in a number of different ways, moving from one to another fairly quickly but giving them time to introduce themselves within their groups before moving to the next. Groupings could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Form a group with other students from your University</li> <li>✦ Form a group with other students majoring in the same discipline as you</li> <li>✦ Are you studying full or part-time? Form a group with others doing the same.</li> <li>✦ Form a group with students born in the same month as you.</li> <li>✦ Move to left or right of the room depending on whether you (e.g.) have a dog</li> </ul> <p>2. Where were you born? Form a circle around the room based on the distance of your birthplace from where we are now.</p> <p>3. Interviewing On a sheet of paper in the middle write your name. In each of the four</p>

	<p>corners write answers to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* What job you would love to do most.</li> <li>* The person in the world you would most like to meet and why.</li> <li>* The place in the world you would most like to live.</li> <li>* Something unusual or exciting about your life you're willing to share with the group.</li> </ul> <p>Move around the room pairing up with people (1 at a time) you don't know. Ask questions of the other person to understand why they've written what they have. THEN as a follow up you could go on to: introduce your partner to the group and report what they've told you.</p> <p>4. Find the individual Everyone takes a piece of paper and writes down four or five adjectives to describe themselves. Papers are collected and redistributed at random. People must try and find the author of the paper they've been given by looking and asking questions. They then return the paper to its author. Keep going until everyone has their own paper back.</p> <p>5. How accurate are our perceptions about others? Ask them to form groups of five. Each person tells the group three things about themselves, two true and one false. Other members of the group have to guess which is false. Each group report back to the whole group the true things they learned about each other.</p> <p>6. Marooned; First introduction to team work Ask them to form new groups of five. As a group they must pick five items they would want to have if marooned on a desert island. They write their items on butcher's paper and must defend to the whole group.</p>
<p>Tips</p>	<p>Have some up-beat music playing in the background to build an exciting and engaging atmosphere.</p> <p>These icebreakers are great for any group or team where interaction is required.</p>