

Categories

What This is a fun, highly interactive introductory get-to-know-you activity for medium to large (20+) groups. Ask a group to organize themselves into smaller groups, based on different criteria (such as number of siblings, favorite color, etc.).

It is particularly useful for celebrating the diversity of the group.

When This activity is used at the beginning of an event or with a new group. Particularly useful as an icebreaker, e.g. can be used as an opener for a workshop/conference.

- How**
1. **Set Up:** Create a group of categories where people can choose between 2 and more choices like those shown below. Categories can also be used as a fun, simple way to organize people into smaller groups for other activities.
 2. **Instructions:** Ask everyone to stand up and begin circulating around the room; explain that you will announce a category (see the list below or create your own) and that participants should then quickly organize themselves into smaller groups based on the category to which they belong. For the first category, use one with two options and announce one side of the room for one category and the other side of the room for the other category. This should help participants to get the idea for how the activity works.
 3. **Call Out Category:** Once everyone is organized into the groups, the group should identify itself. Allow participants time to say hello and mingle/chat with each other when the smaller groups are formed. Get the group moving again before announcing the next category. Continue until the group is "warmed up" and ready for the next activity. This will probably be after 3 to 5 categories, depending on the group, purpose, and time available.

List of categories

Two categories

- When you clasp your hands together and fold the thumbs across the top, is your right or left thumb on top?
- Fold your arms across your chest. Is your right or left arm on top?
- Which leg do you put into your pants first?
- Which eye do you prefer to wink with?
- Which side of the bed (left or right) do you get out of in the morning?
- Can you roll your tongue? (yes/no)

Three categories

- When licking an ice cream cone...do you:
 - Twirl the cone clockwise
 - Twirl the cone counterclockwise
 - Lick up and down?

Multiple categories

- What is your favorite season?
- How many siblings do you have?
- What color are your eyes?
- What's your shoe size?
- What type of shoes are you wearing?
- What's your favorite color?
- What's your star sign?
- What make of car do you drive?

Adapted from: Collard, M. (1996). Categories. In *No props: Great games with no equipment* (p. 10). Project Adventure Australia: Viewbank, Victoria, Australia.