

FREE

More **great** **icebreakers**



Introduction



Jackie Barrie founded Comms Plus in 2001. It's a writing and design business that specialises in making complex information appear simple. We know that effective communication can't be always achieved by a piece of paper or on screen, it has to be done face-to-face instead.

We believe that a fun introduction that makes people laugh is the best way to get any event off to a good start. This booklet shares some more fantastic ideas, all tried and tested and known to work, whether for large or small groups.

This booklet is the companion to '**8 Guaranteed Icebreakers**' compiled in 2005.

Read on to get your event warmed up and off to a great start...

"Exactly what I wanted! I showed them to Rupert who said he realised there was a real art to writing these sort of letters - and you have it!"

Catherine Cross, Accomplished Broadcasting

9. Pig Profile

Ask each participant to draw a pig on a Post-It™ note. When they've finished, stick them all on the wall as a 'gallery' and invite everyone round to admire them (not for larger groups). Tell them it's similar to a Myers-Briggs personality test (but stress it isn't really, it's just a bit of fun).

Here's the interpretation of the drawings – it's interesting to see whether anybody owns up to any of the traits described (especially the last one!):

1. If the pig is drawn towards the top of the paper, you are a positive and optimistic person.
2. If the pig is drawn towards the middle of the page, you are a realist.
3. If the pig is drawn towards the bottom of the page, you are a pessimist and have a tendency to behave negatively.
4. If the pig is facing left, you believe in tradition, are friendly and remember dates and birthdays.



"Your work is always interesting, fun and informative. Thank you for providing me with information I need, without me knowing I need it."

Jane Mann, Maple Consulting

- 5.** If the pig is facing towards the viewer, you are direct, enjoy playing devil's advocate and neither fear nor avoid discussion.
- 6.** If the pig is facing right, you are innovative and active, but have neither a sense of family nor remember dates.
- 7.** If the pig is drawn with many details, you are analytical, cautious and distrustful.
- 8.** If the pig is drawn with few details, you are emotional, naïve, care little for detail and take risks.
- 9.** If the pig is drawn with four legs showing, you are secure, stubborn and stick to your ideals.
- 10.** If the pig is drawn with less than four legs showing, you are insecure or are living through a period of major change.
- 11.** The larger the pigs ears are drawn, the better listener you are.
- 12.** And last but not least. the longer the pig's tail you have drawn, the more satisfied you are with the quality of your social/sex life.

"Love the newsletter, and have just spent 1/2 hour laughing reading your blog and following links!"
Karen Baldwin, KarenB Photography

10. Name Games

Go round the room getting each person to introduce themselves in turn by name, and business name PLUS...

...State who would you ideally want to bring your pyjamas if you were in hospital

OR

...Add an alliterative adjective e.g.
Awesome Annie (you can turn this into a memory game where the next person has to repeat all the names and adjectives that have gone before as well as introducing themselves – it helps people remember new names and characteristics)

OR

...Give the name of your first pet and the road where you live to give your film star (or porn star!) name. Note: some people suggest using mother's maiden names for this but others are reluctant to do so as they are often used as passwords.

"Your excellent work recommends you, great website, well done."

Terence O'Mahony, ICON Business Solutions

11. Fascinating Facts

Pass round a roll of toilet paper. Everyone takes as much as they like, but then they have to tell the group a fact about themselves equal to the number of sheets they took.

OR

Prepare a list of facts about each person with a copy to all. Ask each person one yes/no question until each fact is claimed.

OR

In turn say: 'The sun shines on people who x' (must be true about yourself). All who do that thing move to another chair. Remove chairs one by one until only one person is left seated.



"A new client rang me to say: 'I loved your website, it was the most professional of all the cleaning sites I found. And I must congratulate whoever did your copywriting and search engine optimisation. They did a really great job! Whatever cleaning keywords I searched on Google, your site came up, so I decided it was meant to be!'"

Annette King, Kingswood Eco Cleaning

12. *Mini-groups*

Write pairs (or more) of animals on cards. Everyone picks a card at random, and then has to find their 'mate/s' by making animal noises only.

OR

Stick a Post-It™ note on everyone's forehead naming one of a famous couple or members of a group. They have to ask questions with Yes/No answers only to identify themselves and find their matching partner/s e.g. Queen Victoria & Prince Albert, Katie Price & Peter André, Posh & Scary & Baby & Sporty & Ginger.

OR

Stick a coloured sticker on everyone's name badge at registration. Ask people to find those with a matching sticker and introduce themselves to each other. Each sub-group must find one thing they **all** have in common e.g. been up the Eiffel Tower, born in Croydon, have blue eyes.

"Comms Plus offers an exceptional service. Jackie has a knack of extracting half-baked ideas from your head and turning them into a finished product."

Charlotte Emery, S.E.A. Photography

13. *Speed networking*

Get the group to form two circles, the inner ring facing the outer ring in pairs.

People in the inner circle have 1 minute to tell their partner about their business – what they do, why they are good at it, and what referrals they are looking for.

The person in the outer circle has 1 minute to do the same.

Both people then share ideas of how they can help each other.

Blow a whistle (or bang a gong or hoot a party honker), and the people in the outer circle move round one pace clockwise to make a new pairing.

Note: You WILL need comfy shoes, you WILL need a timer/stopwatch, you WILL need something to make a loud noise and keep it moving along over all the talking. One hour is more than enough (that's 40 people having 20 conversations of 3 minutes each).

"Jackie was the first graphic designer who actually listened to what we wanted to achieve and came back first time with a proof we were happy with."

Vivian Slattery, Monetary Solutions Limited

14. Get knotted

The whole group forms a large circle and slowly walks to the centre.

Everyone should now try to hold hands with two other people across the circle.

When there are no free hands, the leader breaks the link between two people and the group have to untangle themselves into a line - without talking.



"The brochures arrived today - they are fantastic. I'm really pleased. Thanks so much for a job really well done from start to finish."

Catherine Cross, Accomplished Broadcasting

15. Load of balls

Sit people around a table and get each one to write their initials on a ping pong ball.

When the game starts, each person at the same time bounces their ball onto the table to be caught by the person opposite who bounces it back to the person to the left of the original. General chaos ensues as balls go everywhere!

After a short period of time you stop the chaos and people have to quickly find out whose ball they have and ask them one question.

They've only got 30 seconds to do this (with everyone talking at once) before you start the ball bouncing again.

Repeat until you've had enough.



"My client, Autocure, loved your design and wording, and was amazed at the speed you turned it around!"

Phill Tulloch, Destiny Printers

16. ????

Please send your ice-breaker ideas to jackie@comms-plus.co.uk and I'll include them in a future compilation.



"I hesitate to change anything as you do such a great job understanding and communicating about us and our industry."

Claire Keith, The Kings Ferry Travel Group

**Newsletters
Copywriting
Web design
Proof-reading
Events**

Other tips booklets include:

- Ssh! Discover the secrets of successful communication
- Checklist for events that go with a bang!
- 10 top tips for effective networking
- Climb that marketing mountain, with ease
- 8 Guaranteed icebreakers

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