

PING PONG CHALLENGE

BRIEF FOR FACILITATORS

Key Themes	Teamwork, Communication, Creative thinking
Participants	Unlimited – suggest teams with a minimum of 3
Timings	Suggested 30 minutes minimum for this activity + debrief time
Materials Required per team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 ping pong balls • Empty drinks bottle which has a large enough opening to easily fit a ping pong ball. • 2 chopsticks • Roll of masking or Sellotape

Overview

This activity is aimed at challenging team members to solve a problem where the best result will be if they work together and think creatively.

Running the activity

- Allocate the group into teams and ask them to drop the ping pong balls into the empty bottles.
- Their task is to get the ping pong balls out of the bottle in the fastest time possible.

Rules:

- They cannot hold the bottle .
- They cannot turn the bottles over to take out the balls or knock the bottles over to remove the balls.
- They can use the chopsticks and tape to remove the ping pong balls but they cannot “stab” the ping pong balls with the chopsticks or any other implement.

Simple solution:

Find some water and fill the bottles with water and the ping pong balls will float to the top for easy removal.

Suggested Review Questions

- How well did you work as a team on that task?
- How effectively did you listen to the idea of others?
- What limited your thinking in coming up with solutions?
- How do available resources limit our thinking in the workplace?
- What can you take from this activity back to the workplace?

