

# TRAFFIC JAM

## BRIEF FOR FACILITATORS

<b>Key Themes</b>	Teamwork, Communication, Planning
<b>Participants</b>	Unlimited but you need an even number so any extra person can take the role of an observer
<b>Timings</b>	Suggested 30 minutes minimum for this activity + debrief time
<b>Materials Required</b>	A4 sheets of paper numbered from 1-? (? Being the even number of participants), and a sheet of paper marked with an X

### Overview

This activity is aimed at challenging team members to solve a problem where it is essential they plan effectively to achieve the goal. They need to collaborate, listen and communicate to complete this task.

### Running the activity

- Place the numbered A4 sheets in a straight line approximately 18 inches apart with extra square "X" in the middle.
- Ask team members to stand next to a numbered square (if there is an odd number in the group the person who chooses "X" is the observer). Encourage participants not to stand on the paper as this could prove a slip hazard (safety issue).
- Everyone needs to turn so that they are facing the X. This is their direction of travel.
- Team members A, B, C, D must switch places with team members W, X, Y, Z according to the rules below.

### Start position:

<i>Person</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>		<i>W</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>
<i>Square</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>

### End/Desired Result:

<i>Person</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>		<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>Square</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>

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### Rules:

- Only person at a time moves forward one square.
- They can only move into an empty square directly in front or around someone going in the opposite direction to an empty square behind that person.

### The group must start again when:

- Anyone moves around someone going in the same direction.
- The team can no longer move forward legally and have not completed exchanging places.
- Anyone on the team moves backwards

### **Additional Option**

To see if they have learnt how to complete the task once they have all moved into their new positions you could ask them to, following the same rules – get back to their original positions.

### Suggested Review Questions

- How well did you work as a team on that task?
- What planning did you do? Was this helpful?
- Did everyone understand what was going on/the plan?
- How well did you communicate as a team on this activity?
- How effectively did you listen to the idea of others?
- How did you support each other to achieve this task?
- How did they work as a team?
- Were strengths in individuals utilised to best effect?
- What can you take from this activity back to the workplace?