

# Communication Skills



*Below are a few activities which develop communication skills through non formal activities:*

## 1. Talk to Me: Eskimos and Papuans

Age: 18-30

Number of participants: +20

Skills: Communication, conflict resolution

Materials needed: a phone, markers and papers

Instructions: Divide the whole group in two equal groups: one group are Papuans and other one are Eskimos. First, each group has to draw things that they should have in their community.

Then, the facilitator explains that the Eskimos had an accident and they need to make a call to ask for help. The Papuans have a phone which is a holy item for them. Both groups need to communicate with each other in order to exchange items and agree somehow so Papuans allow Eskimos to use the phone.

Reflection:

How each group felt?

Why did they act like they did?

What were the communication problems?

How did they solve them?



## 2. Guess what?

Age: 18-30

Number of participants: minimum 10 participants + 1 facilitator

Skills: Listening, speaking, team work, discussion, making decision

Materials needed: two copies of: 1 picture / drawing and one white paper with holes.

Instructions: Divide the group in 2 equal groups. Put one picture in one corner of the room and cover it with a white paper full of holes (the number of holes depends on the number of participants). One member of each group has to go to the place where the picture is and look at it for 3 seconds through the holes. That participant must return to their group and draw the element he/she saw for them. His/Her group has to find out what that person saw. The team has discussion about this picture and they must tell to the facilitator what they think it is on the picture. If they don't know what it is, a second person must go to see other part of the picture and repeat the process. The first group that recognizes what's on the picture wins!

Evaluation: Group reflection by asking them how the communication was at the group through the game and how they took a decision.

### 3. Broken Smart Phone - Listening Exercise.

Age: 18-30

Number of participants: 10-20

Skills: listening and speech reproducing

Instructions: Participants stay in a circle and they choose a volunteer. The facilitator tells one story to that volunteer. He/she shares the story with the next participant on his/her right. The second participant tells the story to the next person and the story must go one by one around the whole circle from one participant to another. The last participant tells the entire story how he/she heard it. The volunteer participant reads the original story.



Rules:

- 1) Time limit
- 2) They should tell the story individually and only one person can hear it at one time
- 3) Facilitator is tracking the time
- 4) They should be aware that they are not allowed to change the story in purpose

Evaluation:

- 1) How much the story has been changed? What was changed? Important things or small details?
- 2) Do you think that you contributed to change the story?
- 3) Sharing feelings

### 4. Missing word

Age: 18-30 years

Number of participants: 2-30 participants

Skills: active listening and describing

Materials needed: Cards with words

Instructions:

- 1) Group is divided in pairs
- 2) Every person chooses a card. The card contains a main word and other keyword related to the same topic.  
One person from the pair must explain to the other this word but without saying any of the words that are in the card.
- 3) They have 3 minutes to find out the keyword of each other.
- 4) The pair who finds out each other keywords first will be the winner, but all pairs must find out the words

Evaluation: Discussion about problems and success.



## 5. Express yourself

Age: 18+

Number of participants: 6+

Skills: Communication, empathy

Materials needed: Cards with categories.

### Instructions:

Prepare cards which show three categories (positions, mission and disadvantage). Each participant has to choose one card from each category. The categories are:

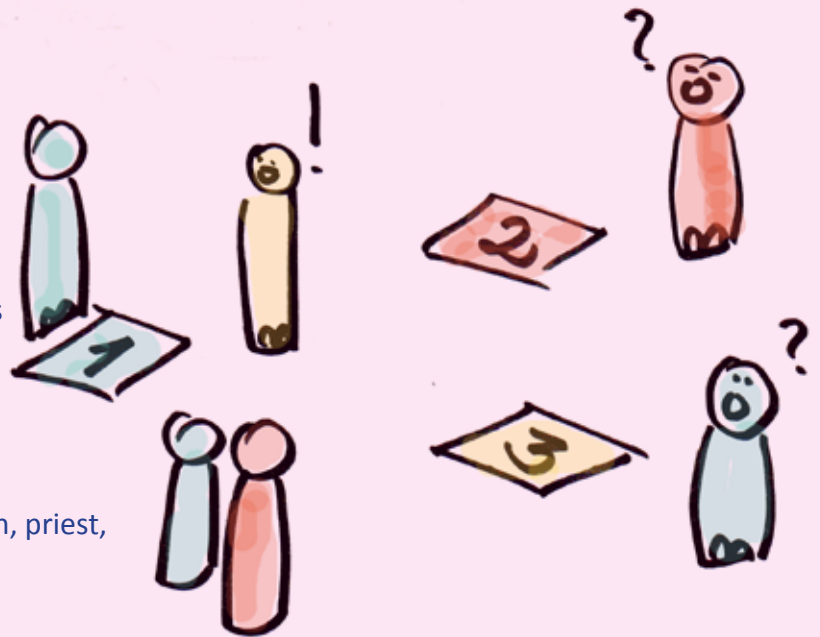
Category 1: perfume seller, doctor, librarian, priest, policeman, baker

Category 2: can't speak, can't hear, only speak mother tongue, can't see, can't move (a part of the body), can't speak and hear

Category 3 (mission): buy a specific perfume, ask for medicine, buy bread, lost wallet and has to ask for help, need a book, confession.

They must interact and find the person they need to accomplish their mission.

Evaluation: Facilitator should ask participants about how they felt during the activity, about their success or failure and how they can associate the activity to real life experiences.



## 6. Talk to me

Age: 18-30 years

Number participants: 20+

Skills: Body language and communication.

Instructions: Divide the group in pairs. Each person of the pair needs to interact and ask 5 questions for knowing each other (example: where are you from? How old are you? Hobbies? Name? work? ...). The answers must be without words, only using body language. They have 5 minutes to interact in pairs.

Second part of the game: they have to present each other to the entire group in a special way, without using the arms. The other person who is being introducing is behind the person introducer and is the one who moves the arms like if there were from the introducer. After, they have to change positions.



Evaluation: Facilitator asks questions in a big circle to all the participants about the difficulties they faced during the exercise.

## 7. Fashion show on the yacht

Age: 18-30 years

Number of participants: 10-20 people

Skills: Negotiation, body language, conflict management

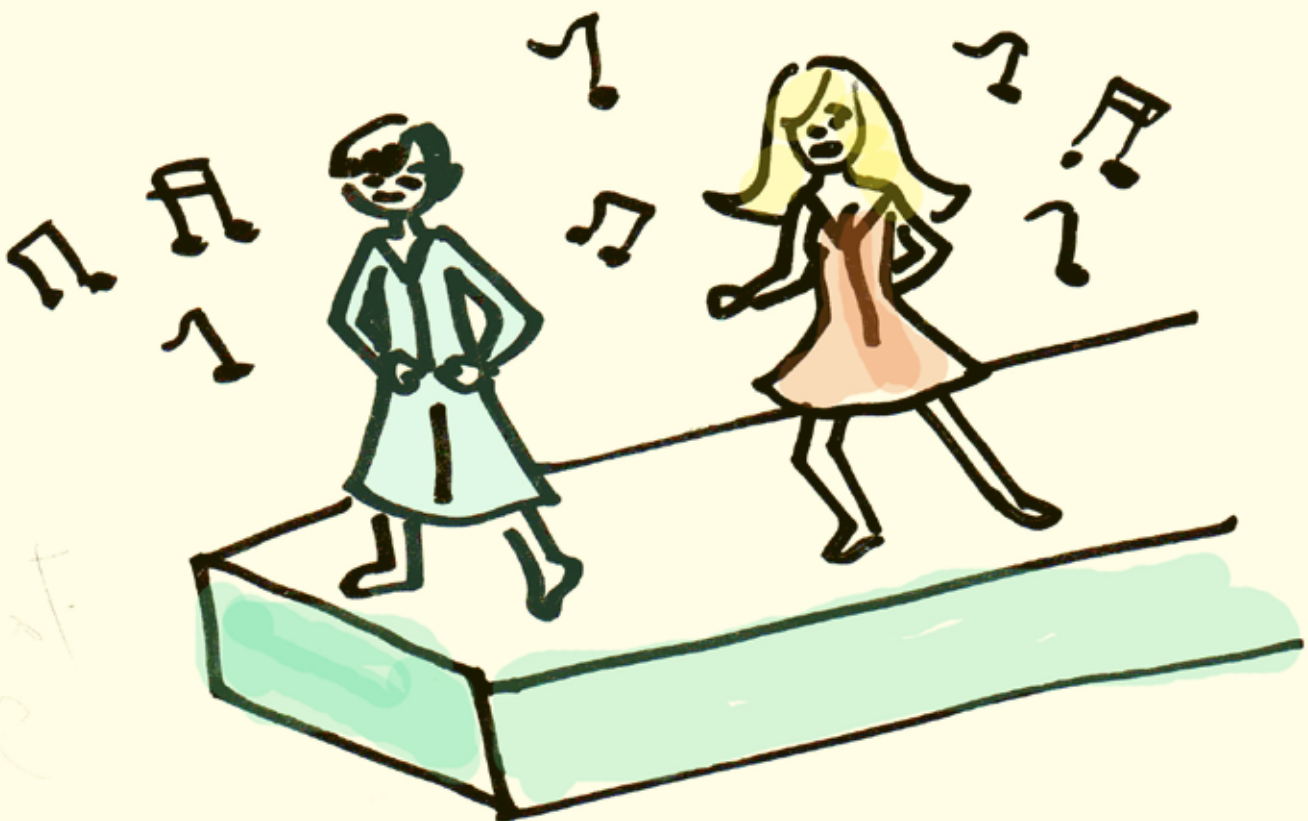
Instructions: The idea is to organize a fashion show on a yacht. There are 10 different roles and tasks to accomplish. First, divide the group in two (group A and group B). Group A has to pick a role and a task. Group B just a role. Then, according to the task, they have to communicate with the people from the group B to help them to organize the fashion show. The game is over when each task is done and the fashion show is organized.

Group A: deaf, blind, young shy girl, angry boy, old lady

Group B: person who rents the boat, fashion designer, corrupted politician, Russian vodka seller, gay hair dresser who is afraid of water.

Tasks: rent a yacht, organize the haute couture, get the permission from the politician, get the hair dresser into yacht, and organize the drink in Russian.

For keeping the time, you can set time limits when the show starts. You can use any type of physical material (grass, shoes, boat...)



Evaluation: Each role can be evaluated before, during and after the activity, both in the group and individually. Talk about their feelings, how the process was and the task accomplished or not.