

## BASICS OF COMMUNICATION – INSTRUCTOR’S FAVOURITE PICKS

### MY FAVOURITE PICKS OF STORIES + GAMES + ILLUSTRATIONS + JOKES ON COMMUNICATION:’

Incorporating games, stories, and humor can make the learning experience more engaging and memorable for participants.

#### STORIES:

- **The Boy Who Cried Wolf:** This classic story can be used to illustrate the importance of trust in communication. Just like the boy who lied about the wolf, if you consistently misrepresent information, people may stop believing you even when you are telling the truth.
- **The Tortoise and the Hare:** This story can be used to demonstrate the importance of active listening. The hare was too busy talking about himself and not paying attention to the tortoise, resulting in him losing the race.
- **The Parable of the Good Samaritan:** This story illustrates the importance of empathy and active listening in effective communication. It emphasizes the value of understanding another person's perspective and the impact it can have on building strong relationships.
- **The Story of the Tower of Babel:** This story highlights the importance of clear communication and the consequences of miscommunication. It shows how a breakdown in communication can lead to misunderstandings and conflict.
- **A game to practice active listening:** "Telephone" - Players sit in a circle and the first player whispers a message to the person next to them. Each player then whispers the message to the next person until it reaches the last player who says the message out loud. This game helps demonstrate how communication can get distorted if active listening is not practiced.

- **A story to illustrate the importance of nonverbal communication:** A young woman goes for a job interview wearing a frown and crossed arms. Even though she answers all the questions correctly, the interviewer senses that she is not enthusiastic about the job and decides not to hire her. The story shows how nonverbal cues can impact how others perceive us and influence our success.

### JOKES:

- Why was the math book sad? Because it had too many problems.
- Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing!

A joke to highlight the challenges of delivering bad news: "Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing!" This joke uses humor to illustrate how delivering bad news can be difficult and uncomfortable.

- Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? Because it was two-tired! This joke highlights the importance of clarity in communication and how misunderstandings can occur even with simple messages.

### REAL-LIFE ILLUSTRATIONS:

- A team member not following through on a task because they didn't fully understand what was asked of them.
- A manager providing feedback that is too vague or generic, resulting in the employee not knowing what they need to improve on.
- **The video "The Power of Words" by Purplefeather:** This video demonstrates how powerful language can be in conveying a message and creating an emotional impact.
- **The cartoon "The Far Side" by Gary Larson:** This cartoon series often uses humor and absurdity to comment on human communication and relationships.

### GAMES:

- **Communication Pictionary:** A game where participants are given a phrase or word and have to draw it, without speaking, while their team members try to guess what it is.
- **Telephone:** A game where participants whisper a message to each other, pass it down the line, and see how the message changes by the end.
- **Pictionary:** This game emphasizes the importance of nonverbal communication and how body language and visual cues can convey a message.
- **Telephonic Conversation:** This game highlights the consequences of miscommunication and how messages can be distorted when passed from person to person.

### FORMULAS:

- **The 7 C's of Communication:** Clear, Concise, Concrete, Correct, Coherent, Complete, and Courteous.
- **The 4 S's of Communication:** Short, Simple, Specific, and Structured.



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