

Word CHAINS

GOAL /OBJECTIVE:

To utilize teamwork, active listening, and memory in a fast-paced and energizing activity.

GROUP SIZE: 5-25

TIME: 5-20 minutes depending on group size and ability.

RULES:

Put your team's memory to the test! Have your team come up with a category, such as, food, animals, or countries. Choose a team member to begin. This person will say out loud an item that belongs to the chosen category that begins with the letter A. For example, if the category is animals, the first person may say 'aardvark'. The second person will repeat the first word, 'aardvark', and then add an animal name that begins with the letter B: 'baboon' for example. Then they pass to another person who must remember and repeat all prior words correctly and in order, in addition to adding their own word. This will keep going until the entire alphabet is complete. If anyone on the team cannot remember or guesses incorrectly, the chain goes all the way back to the first person to again start with the letter A.

DEBRIEF:

- What tools did you use to remember the word order?
- In this activity, the team members who started the chain had an easier task than those at the end. Are there any similarities between that and working the closing shift after a busy day? Or making up production quotas after they have fallen behind? Is there anything else about our work that is similar?
- How might being the last person in this activity be similar to being a new team member in our stores? (An overwhelming number of new names/procedures/quotas/steps to remember.)

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