

TOOL DESCRIPTION

Speed Talking



Speed Talking is an icebreaker exercise for the beginning of a workshop with a larger group. It gives all participants a simple way to connect with each other and the topic of the workshop.

The start of a workshop can significantly influence the remainder. An appropriate beginning allows the participants to check in both in person and socially, and they can already become involved with the topic without going into great detail. If people get to speak right at the beginning of a workshop, they are also much more inclined to participate actively going forward.

Speed Talking creates a lot of energy in the room. All workshop participants stand up and move around in the room. The noise made by everyone talking at the same time reminds one of a swarm of bees.

Duration 10–15 min	Participants 12–100 or more, the larger the group, the better the method works	Facilitation slides to present the questions, a gong to signal that the time is over, microphone for larger groups
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Speed Talking | Process

Preparation

approx. 30 min



Before the workshop, think about the questions you want the participants to talk about. Depending on whether you use Speed Talking as an opener, energizer or to kick off the discussion, different questions may be interesting.

Example questions:

- What was your arrival like?
- Where do I come from?
- What has kept me busy over the last few days/yesterday ...?
- What is my current relation to ...?
- What is my success story/my recipe for success or my most frustrating experience with this topic?
- What question would I like to ultimately answer today? What needs to happen for today to be a success?

Visualize each question on a slide.

Execution

2–3 min per round



Introduce the process:

- Participants need form pairs and, to do so, they need to stand up and look for someone with whom they may not have talked much so far.
- For the first minute, Person A will talk about the question with Person B.
- After one minute, Person B starts talking and Person A listens.
- Signal with a gong that the time is over and ask participants to find a new partner with whom to talk.
- Show the first question and give the opening sign for round 1 only after you have introduced the process.

Tips for the facilitation:

- Speed Talking requires powerful and strict facilitation. Everybody needs to pay attention. Do not start speaking until everybody is silently listening to you.
- Give the participants the time to find a new partner and introduce themselves each other before you present the next question.