

A Penny for Your Thoughts

The purpose of this activity is to facilitate introductions and foster familiarity among team members who have not previously collaborated.

MATERIALS

- Pennies

VERSION 1 - INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute one penny to each participant, ensuring that the year of the penny falls within 15 years of the current year.
2. Each person in the group will share something significant or interesting that happened to them in the year on the penny they were given.

VERSION 1 - INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ensure that there are enough pennies for each participant to have five.
2. Each person should share something unique about themselves or something they have done that is unlikely to be shared by anyone else.
3. After sharing the item, if no one else shares this in common, they have the option to place one of their pennies in the center of the table.
4. If there are others who have this item in common, they may also place one of their pennies in the center of the table.
5. Please rotate to the next person and continue.
6. The individual who is able to get rid of all their pennies first will be the winner.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What is the significance of gaining a deeper understanding of one another?
- Was it simple or challenging to share information about yourself with others?
- What are some ways we can learn more about each other in the workplace?

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Participants should take a few minutes to think of something to share before starting.
- For Version 1, if an individual is unable to recall any noteworthy events from that year, they may consider discussing their personal circumstances during that period, such as their place of residence, occupation, and hobbies.
- If time allows, the group can engage in a question and answer session after each participant shares their information.

Adapted from Scannell, Mary, and Edward E. Scannell. *The Big Book of Team Motivating Games: Spirit-building, Problem solving, and Communication Games for Every Group*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010. Print. (pages 35, 45)