

Human Typewriter

Breaking down barriers and having fun in a team setting can be hugely beneficial for creating a team that works well together and is resilient to change and challenge.

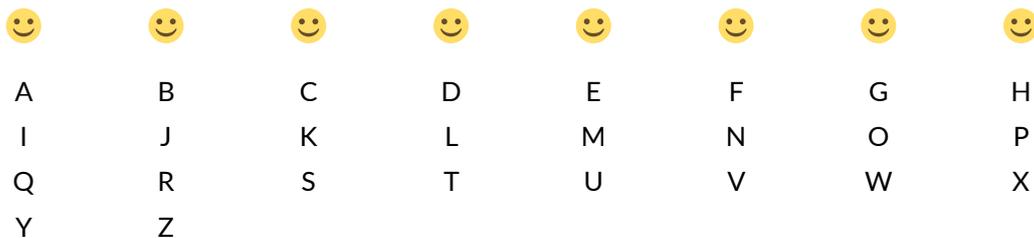
This team-building exercise is a fun way of involving all the team equally in a joint activity while working towards a common goal.

The steps in this exercise are as follows:

1. Arrange the team in a line.
2. Run through the alphabet assigning one letter at a time to each team member.

Where there are less than 26 people, participants will have more than one letter.

For example, where there are only eight attendees, each will have three or four letters.



3. Give the team a sentence that contains every (or at least most) letter of the alphabet.

Such as:

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy brown cow.

The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

By Jove, my quick study of lexicography won a prize.

4. Progress through the sentence one letter at a time.
5. The person assigned to the letter should shout it out and step forward, like pressing a key on an old-fashioned typewriter.
6. Start slowly, paying particular attention to the person with the letter before and after yours in the sentence.
7. As you repeat the same sentence or attempt new ones, try and get a little quicker.
8. If you miss a letter, or lose your place, start again from the first letter.

You can try this out with any sentence, though ensure that everyone has at least one of the letters.

With a little practice, you can attempt to type an original sentence one letter at a time without agreeing on the wording in advance.

The exercise has no formal purpose other than to create a little fun, break the ice, and attempt to communicate in a very different way.

Dr. Jeremy Sutton