

**From Silly
to Serious
to Success**

Off-the-Wall,
Whacky &
Weird Ways
to
Spark Creativity

FANTASY

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NATIONAL
SPEAKERS
ASSOCIATION

Being Serious Won't Make You Silly, Yet Being Silly Can Help You Be More Serious

Over 35 years of working in creative fields and working with people striving to be more creative or use more creativity I have discovered that silly has its place in the serious workplace.

Since first attending CPSI in 1978 I have met hundreds of consultants, business leaders, managers, trainers and educators that have shared how they use silly as a serious creativity tool.

Silly putty, toys, props, balloons, water guns, noise makers, practical jokes, comedy movies, cartoons on the screen or the wall, TinkerToys, Zots & ????, Frizbees, clown noses, costumes, pinball machines, video games.

These are only a sampling of what I have seen people use and have tried to encourage people to use.

Lindsay Collier, creativity consultant, has shared often the efforts of his Creativity Room at Kodak. Dave Morrison and Frank Prince have talked about their work while inside Frito-Lay. Others have shared about their work at IBM, GE, Motorola, and endless other corporations.

C. W. Metcalf, Malcolm Kushner, Matt Weinstein, Joel Goodman, Bob Basso Esther Blumenfeld and Lynne Alpern represent only a few of those who have written about their experiences as humor consultants. Annually Joel Goodman and his Humor Project holds a Humor Conference in Sarasota Springs, New York and Humor Development Workshops during the summer.

In his recent book *Faster Company*, Pat Kelly, the founder of PSS, first nationwide medical supply distribution company, shares about many of the fun things they have done in his company to help increase the creativity of the employees.

My 20 years has introduced me to officers, directors, managers and supervisors at poultry plants, sewing plants, clay processing companies, baby product producers, police and fire stations, libraries, school rooms, government offices where humor and fun are used to increase the creativity and lessen the stress of the daily pressures of today's workplace.

The discovery I have made is that the companies that deliberately strive to make their workplace and their work fun and add humor intentionally are the ones who are more successful consistently over time.

How can you add humor into your workplace?

Cartoons, jokes, share humorous work anecdotes, dress up in costume at holiday times or in celebration of a great success.

Pacesetter Steel based near Atlanta chose a baseball theme for a sales campaign. All the employees were take to an Atlanta Braves game for the kick-off. The lobby of the headquarters was changed into a baseball field with a dugout that visitors sat in while waiting for their appointments. As a prize if they increased sales to a chosen point was a cruise for all employees. They did. They went.

Ice cream and cake parties. Parades, props, posters, gag gifts.

The AT&T Longlines plant in Norcross celebrated a great win by holding a parade throughout the plant. The floats were made from leftover supplies by the employees on their own time. The end of the parade was the operations manager, Lou Hatala and the president of the CWA local not just shaking hands but hugging in congratulations of their joint accomplishments.

Why do these things?

To increase morale. To lessen stress. To enrichen camaraderie and teamship. To make work fun and something people look forward to each day.

How do you benefit?

Lower turnover, absenteeism, lateness, error rates. Increased production, accuracy, finer quality. The overall results...higher profits and greater staying and hanging in power when things get tough.

How do these increase creativeness?

When people are having fun they will bounce back for misses, failures, mistakes easier. People work better in teams when they are having fun along with challenges. Conflicts will be resolved and benefitted from more. People maintain higher levels of enthusiasm and motivation when they are having fun and find value in their work.

Am I saying that everyone in your next board meeting should be given cans of silly string? Am I saying that everyone in your next planning meeting should be wearing clown noses? Am I saying that your sales force out to hand out humorous gag gifts to clients this quarter?

Yes I am!

Look at Southwest Airlines, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, Thiele Kaolin, Duck Head Apparel and many other examples. When they spontaneously and deliberately strive to add fun and have fun at work they are more successful.

When was the last time you toured a poultry plant and most of the employees and supervisors and the plant manager were dressed up in Halloween costumes? When was the last time you went your bank branch and the president was dressed up as Dracula?

At Gold Kist Poultry they do. At First American Bank he does. These are a couple of local examples from my home town of Athens, Georgia.

How about you? How about your department? How about your plant or organization?

How can you add humor and fun this week?

The results will be tremendous.

Who is This Great Tear ?

1 nicknames **2** hometowns

6 strange unusual gifts / friends

3 hobbies

5 meaningful teachers **4** travel destinations



Ice Breakers & Team Building Challenges

Slogan Contest

With your table/team/mates figure out all the following products or services based on their popular television, radio or newspaper jingles/slogans.

“Have it your way.”

“Quality is job one.”

“The dog kids love to bite.”

“The one beer to have when you having more than one.”

“Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don’t.”

“It takes a licking and keeps on ticking.”

“For the seafood lover in you.”

“Watch it quiver, see it shiver.”

“You can’t get away with the crunch ‘cause the crunch always gives you away.”

“You’ve come a long way, baby.”

“Ed and I thank you for your support.”

“No more tears.”

“The uncola™.”

SWEET TOOTH

Do you have a sweet tooth?
Did you have one as a kid?
Then let’s test your “sweet tooth’s” memory.

Name the following 20 candies or candy bars.

1. A famous swashbuckling trio of old.
2. Elmer Fudd’s sleight of hand or magical maneuvers.
3. A broad band of stars.
4. Sizzling crimson tidbits.
5. A planet known for its red color.
6. Author William Sidney Porter’s pen name.
7. Expressions of joy, mirth, or scorn in a suppressed manner.
8. An idiom that describes someone who drops things
9. Letters found near the middle of the alphabet.
10. An adventurer who explored with a guy named Lewis.
11. Childhood name of a famous baseball player who is known for his strikeout record.
12. A sluggish jab.

**Off-the-Wall
Whacky
& Weird
Ways to Spark
Creativity**

Mental Team Puzzles

Off-the-Wall
Whacky
& Weird
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Creativity

Find these words in the WORD FIND Puzzle Below
with your team/tablemates.

CONVERGE	IDEAS	DIVERSITY
EMPOWER	TECHNIQUES	CHILDLIKE
CREATE	INNOVATE	DIVERGE
TEAMS	TRUST	UNITY
VISION		



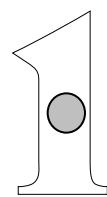
T K T Y N L G E Y G T A A M E T A E R C
Z N C E E P F D M E X Y T I S R E V I D
S I O A C J I B C P I K H G R C M V U P
U G C T R U S T X H S A O O N B J O T A C I C S
W D K N A U T D N R N Y S W O O V N P E T E I M
S A E D I Y J I R O T A Y D E B I V O G N T O B
R N J H F P Q W R I R R N V B R T E H R J A A S
T X T Q B U E L N U P O E E I G G R N E P V G I
C E P T E W D U P D O G R T R S B G R V O O M E
A S P W U G M Y Y E G I A N I E K I Q N
T M G L E N L N O O Y W R A I O N D E N
J X S I L C H I L D L I K E P X N W P I



Mental Team Puzzles

Words in a Box Puzzles

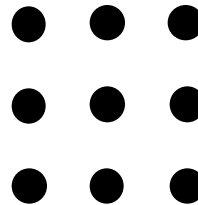
With your tablemates or partners solve the following Words in a Box Puzzles.

<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>P </p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. blessing 2. blessing 3. blessing 4. blessing 5. blessing 6. blessing
<p>5</p> <p>orseman</p>	<p>6</p> <p>power</p>

black

The Famous 9-Dot Puzzle

Connect these nine dots with 4 or less straight lines without picking up your tool or backing up once you start connecting them.



Letters in a Box

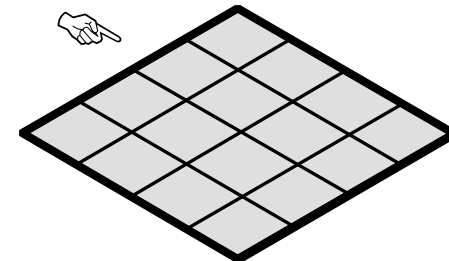
Find the following words in the **Letters in a Box**.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| skill | box |
| talent | break |
| creative | hidden |
| crayon | success |

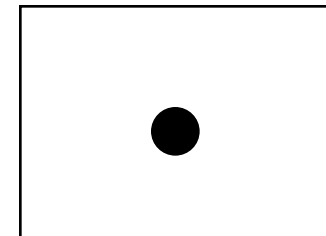
p	e	t	k	a	e	r	b
s	v	d	n	n	d	d	d
s	i	r	r	e	l	p	r
e	t	y	y	d	l	e	y
c	a	u	u	d	u	a	u
c	e	s	k	i	l	l	t
u	r	l	b	h	p	p	p
s	c	n	o	y	a	r	c
m	q	w	x	m	r	m	j

Off-the-Wall Whacky & Weird Ways to Spark Creativity

How many Parallelograms Do you See?



What might this Be?

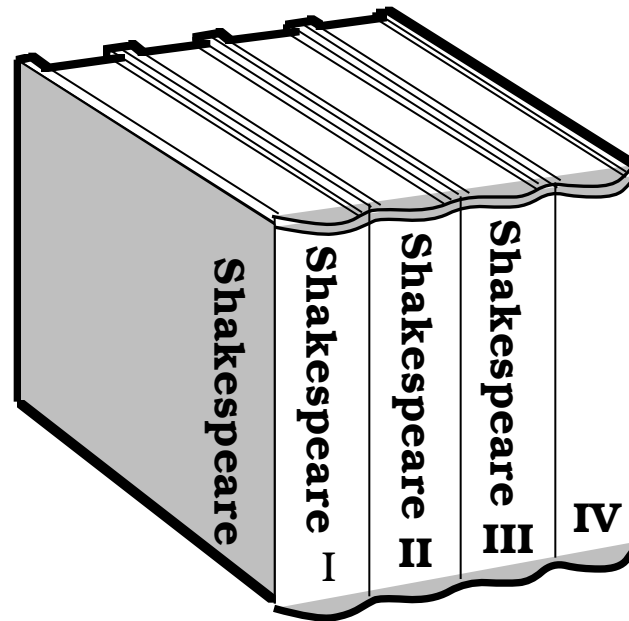


Mental Team Puzzles

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The Bookworm

There are 4 volumes of the completed works of Shakespeare on the bookshelf. The pages of each book are 2" thick. The covers are each 1/6" thick. The bookworm started eating at page one of volume one and ate to the last page of volume four. How far did the bookworm eat?



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PERSONALITY QUIZ

INSTRUCTIONS:

Circle T (true) or F (False) depending which is more typical of your behavior or opinions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| T F 1. I salivate at the sight of rain galoshes | T F 7. It is hard for me to keep my composure when I walk into a spider web face first in the dark. |
| T F 2. Cauliflower makes me feel lonely. | T F 8. I often straighten other people's paintings. |
| T F 3. I believe the best way to keep our streets clean is to glue leaves back on our trees. | T F 9. When I walk I can hear my shoes wearing out. |
| T F 4. I use dental floss to excess. | T F 10. A clean desk is a sign of sickness |
| T F 5. I have always been disturbed by the size of Teddy Roosevelt's teeth. | T F 11. I wonder why we park in driveways & drive on parkways. |
| T F 6. I often sleep with my eyes open when my spouse is talking to me. | T F 12. I never seem to finish what I . . . |

Once you are finished, compare your answers with your neighbor's to see who is the strangest among the two of you.

**Off-the-Wall
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HaHa's



Humorous Creative Thinking Warmups

More Church Bulletin Bloopers...

1. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

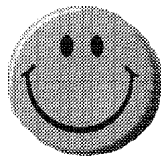
2. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

3. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

4. The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

5. A songfest was held at the Methodist church Wednesday.

6. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.



New Proverbs...

A first grade teacher collected well known proverbs She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb Their insight may surprise you

Better to be safe
than Punch a 5th grader

Strike while the **Bug is close**

It's always darkest
before Daylight Savings Time

Never underestimate the power of
Termites

Don't bite the hand that **looks dirty**

No news is **impossible**

A miss is as good as a **Mr**

You can't teach an old dog
new math

If you lie down with dogs,
you'll stink in the morning



Off-the-Wall Whacky & Weird Ways to Spark Creativity

Baby Boomers--Then & Now

Then: Long hair

Now: Longing for hair

Then:

Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your parents.

Now: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your grandkids.

Then: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

Now: Trying not to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

Strange Classified Ads

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT:
QUEEN SIZE MATTRESS & BOX
SPRINGS \$175.

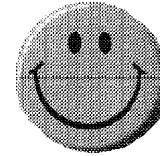
JOINING NUDIST COLONY!
MUST SELL WASHER & DRYER
\$300.

LAWYER SAYS CLIENT IS NOT THAT
GUILTY.

HaHa's



Humorous Creative Thinking Warmups



Off-the-Wall
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Things to Think About. . .

1. Save the whales.
Collect the whole set.
2. A day without sunshine is like...
night.
3. On the other hand...
you have different fingers.
4. I just got lost in thought.
It was unfamiliar territory.
5. 42.7 percent of all statistics
are made up on the spot.
6. 99 percent of lawyers
give the rest a bad name.
7. I wonder how much deeper the ocean
would be...
without sponges.
8. Remember that half the people you
know ...
are below average.
9. Borrow money from a pessimist
they don't expect it back.
10. If at first you don't succeed
destroy all evidence that you tried.

Bumper Stickers

Pass with care, I chew tobacco!

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

Jesus is coming - everyone look busy.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Joan of Arc is alive and medium well.

A bartender is just
a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

Honk - if you love peace and quiet.

How much higher would the ocean be without
sponges?

Change is inevitable. Except from a vending
machine.

HaHa's

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Useless Inventions -

How many of these can you think of some use for?
Who might you market them to?

1. A black highlighter pen
2. A book on how to read
3. A dictionary index
4. A Pedal powered wheelchair
5. AC adapter for Solar powered calculators
6. Battery powered Battery Charger
7. Braille Drivers Manual
8. Do-it-yourself road map
9. Double sided playing cards
10. Ejector seats for Helicopters
11. Fireproof Cigarettes
12. Fireproof Matches
13. Glow in the dark sunglasses
14. Hand powered Chainsaw
15. Inflatable Anchor
16. Inflatable dart boards
17. Mechanical Pencil sharpeners
18. Non stick Cellotape
19. Pedal-powered wheel chairs
20. Powdered water
21. Reuseable ice cubes
22. Seatbelts for Motorbikes
23. See-through toilet tissue
24. Silent Alarm Clock
25. Skinless bananas
26. Smooth Sandpaper
27. Solar Powered Flash Light
28. Submarine screen doors
29. The water-proof towel
30. Toe implants
31. Turnip ice cream
32. Watermelon seed sorter
33. Waterproof sponge
34. Waterproof tea bags
35. Zero proof alcohol
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.

**Off-the-Wall
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“ ”

**Creative minds
always have been known to survive
any kind of bad training.**

Anna Freud

**When all is said and done,
monotony may after all
be the best condition
for creation.**

Margaret Sackville

**If you're having difficulty
coming up with new ideas,
then slow down ...**

**Creativity exists
in the present moment.
You can't find it anywhere else.**

Natalie Goldberg, author

**To stimulate creativity,
one must develop
the childlike inclination
for play and
the childlike desire
for recognition.**

Albert Einstein

**What [is] there
to be creative about
in the absence
of obstacles?**

Jerry Hirshberg

**The creative is the place
where no one else has
ever been.**

**You have to leave the city
of your comfort and go
into
the wilderness of your
intuition.**

Alan Alda

**Creative thinking
may simply mean
the realization that
there's no particular
virtue in doing things
the way they have
always been done.**

Roger Von Oech

**A hunch
is creativity
trying to tell
you something.**

Frank Capra

Off-the-Wall Whacky & Weird Ways to Spark Creativity

**Creativity thrives in the child ...
dies in the man.**

(Anonymous)

**Creative ideas cannot be pressed out
like olive oil but must be massaged out
through enablement,
motivation, & reinforcement.**

Steve Gandola

**It's not what you see that determines
what you believe;
it's what you believe that determines
what you see.**

Fredrick K. C. Price

**No matter how old you get,
if you can keep
the desire to be creative,
you're keeping
the man-child alive.**

Pablo Picasso



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