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**Off-the-Wall,  
Out-of-the-box,  
Unconventional Thinking  
can lead us to Success**

Robert **Alan** Black, Ph.D., CSP



## Are You a Crayon Breaker?

Read the following 32 human traits and check or mark the ones you

believe are you most of the time. You may choose as many or as few as you want.

If you are NOT sure of the definitions of any of the words, please ask the facilitator.

1. sensitive
2. not motivated by money
3. sense of destiny
4. adaptable
5. tolerant of ambiguity
6. observant
7. perceive world differently
8. see possibilities
9. question asker
10. can synthesize correctly often intuitively
11. able to fantacize
12. flexible
13. fluent
14. imaginative
15. intuitive
16. original
17. ingenious
18. energetic
19. sense of humor
20. self-actualizing
21. self-disciplined
22. self-knowledgeable
23. specific interests
24. divergent thinker
25. curious
26. open-ended
27. independent
28. severely critical
29. non-conforming
30. confident
31. risk taker
32. persistent

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# 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 candies or candy bars.**




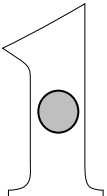
1. A famous swashbuckling trio of old.
2. Elmer Fudd’s sleight of hand or magical maneuvers.
3. A broad band of stars.
4. Sizzling crimson tidbits.
5. A planet known for its red color.
6. Author William Sidney Porter’s pen name.
7. Expressions of joy, mirth, or scorn in a suppressed manner.
8. An idiom 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.

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## Mental Team Puzzles

### Words in a Box Puzzles

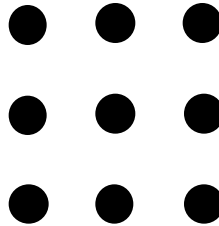
With your tablemates or partners solve the following Words in a Box Puzzles.

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

**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

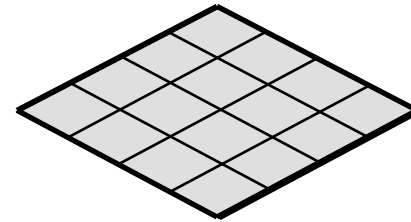
Find the following words in the Letters in a Box. . .

skill	box
talent	break
creative	hidden
crayon	success

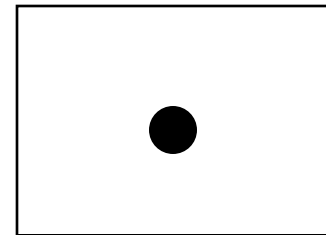
p	e	t	k	a	e	r	b
s	v	d	n	n	d	d	d
s	i	r	r	e	l	p	r
e	t	y	y	d	l	e	y
c	a	u	u	d	u	a	u
c	e	s	k	i	l	l	t
u	r	l	b	h	p	p	p
s	c	n	o	y	a	r	c
m	q	w	x	m	r	m	j

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**How many  
Parallelograms  
Do You See?**



**What might this Be?**



# 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.

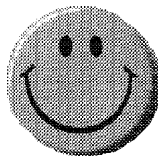
2. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

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**



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## 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.

Ha Ha's

5

## Useless Inventions

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

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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 Chain saw
15. Inflatable Anchor
16. Inflatable dart boards
17. Mechanical Pencil sharpeners
18. Non stick Cellotape
19. Pedal-powered wheel chairs
20. Powdered water
21. Reusable 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 waterproof 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.

Internet source: Vince Angeloni <Vince.angeloni@UNCLETOBYS.COM.AU>

## Enrichable & Expandable Skills

Since the early 1950's researchers have been researching the teaching of Creative Thinking Skills. One of the leading researchers, E. Paul Torrance, Ph.D., professor emeritus of the University of Georgia, developed a series of tests of creative thinking skills that are used around the world. His tests measure several separate skills that can be developed. Twenty of them that can be developed and applied in any job are listed below.

1. Fluency - many ideas
2. Flexibility - different types of ideas
3. Elaboration - addition of details
4. Originality - uniqueness
5. Abstractness of approach moving from reality
6. Openness-resisting early closure or completion
7. Change of Context (cross-interpretation)
8. Combination of Ideas/Facts (Synthesis)
9. Breakthrough from Current Limits
10. Unusual Viewpoint
11. Internal Perspective
12. Humorous Perspective
13. Richness & Colorful Detail
14. Feelings & Emotions
15. Fantasy
16. Movement & Sound (Sense change)
17. Multiple Idea Combinations
18. Macro Scale Perspective [seeing from larger view]
19. Provocative Viewpoint
20. Future orientation

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“ ”

**At BB&T we will create competitive advantage by knowing more than our competition and by adding value through our ability to solve problems creatively.**

John A. Allison

**If you think you are going to be successful running your business in the next ten years the way you did in the last ten years, you're out of your mind. To succeed, you have to disturb the present.**

Roberto Goizueta, CEO-Coca-Cola

**Swim upstream. Go the other way. Ignore the conventional wisdom. If everyone else is doing it one way, there's a good chance you can find your niche by going in exactly the opposite direction**

Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart Stores

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

Albert Einstein

**Being creative is being yourself and helping others to do the same.**

Robert Alan Black, Ph.D., CSP

**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



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**Creative thinking and creativity are what produce success in all businesses.**

Harry Vardis

**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

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

(Anonymous)



# M.I.N.D. Design™ Creative Styles

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There are many different Creative Thinking Styles.  
The following paragraphs describe four basic Creative Thinking Styles.

## **M - Rationally Innovative** Rational & Challenging

Continuously improving, refining what exists or systematically moving from the abstract to the concrete. Uses logic and rationale. This is a deductive and reductive approach moving back and forth from the practical to the theoretical. A style of a loner. The style of a highly goal-oriented person who is most concerned with completing the challenge.

## **Dd - Systematic** Conventional

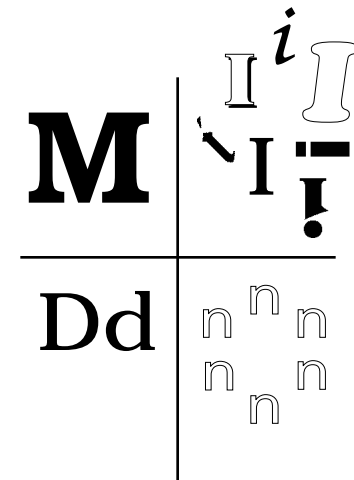
Applying known theories and systems or equations to reuse previously proven solutions or problems. This is a reductive approach using predominantly critique, judgement and argument. The style of a person highly loyal to an organization. Very organized and a step-by-step thinker.

## **Imaginative - i** Off-the-Wall

Creation of the new, the untried. Blue sky, inspirational thinking & leading. Uses hunches, guesses, approximations. This is an exploratory, open-ended seemingly undisciplined approach that works from many potential solutions backwards more often than from the problem towards solutions, using multiple thinking and non-thinking approaches. The style of a highly impatient person, loyal to the challenges and the process.

## **Joint Team - n** Communal & Harmonious

An exploratory, often accidental approach. Generally “feels” a problem and its many potential solutions. Generally this style prefers to work in teams to “bounce” ideas often off other “accepting” people/leaders. A compromising style. The style of a person highly loyal to his or her team and the project or organization.



# M.I.N.D. Design's™ & Creative Thinking Styles

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Meditatives look at people as...

**Very precise,  
thorough thinker,  
logical, rational,  
very focused**



Rule book bound,  
mentally stuck,  
can't think for  
themselves.

**M** | **!**  
-----  
Dd | n

Out in space,  
no facts or proof,  
out of touch with  
reality

**loner**

Way too sensitive,  
take things too  
personal, pushy, always  
invading their space

**Rational & Challenging**

**Off-the-Wall**

Intuitives look at people as...

Too factual,  
overly precise,  
number oriented,  
too single focused.

**individual**

Too orderly,  
too rigid, inflexible,  
too dependent on  
the rules.

**M** | **!**  
-----  
Dd | n

**Creative,  
risk-taker,  
challenging,  
innovative.**



Too friendly,  
overly personal,  
too dependent upon  
others.

Directives look at people as...

Too argumentative,  
always improving what  
already works fine,  
not realistic, a loner.



**Reliable,  
orderly,  
consistent, loyal,  
accurate & right,  
highly dependable**

**M** | **!**  
-----  
Dd | n

Flighty, breaks  
all the rules,  
unreliable, egotistical  
not company  
person.

**joiner**

Too sensitive,  
inconsistent,  
too soft towards people,  
can't make  
own decisions.

**Conventional**

**Communal & Harmonious**

Negotiatives look at people as...

Insensitive, blunt,  
too logical,  
too theoretical,  
uncaring.

**member**

Too ruled oriented,  
not very friendly,  
inflexible, too  
machine-like.

**M** | **!**  
-----  
Dd | n

Too far out,  
a little crazy,  
too independent.



**Friendly,  
caring,  
sensitive,  
easy to be with,  
very giving.**

## Robert Alan Black, Ph.D., CSP

Alan as a creative thinking consultant & professional speaker....

generates **IDEAS**,  
facilitates sessions to generate **IDEAS**,  
trains people to facilitate or generate **IDEAS**.

He specializes in the **S.P.R.E.A.D.**ng™ of Creative Thinking Everywhere in his Client's Workplaces thru speeches, workshops, training programs, retreats & consulting about the ...

**SUPPORTING,  
PROMOTING,  
RECOGNIZING,  
ENCOURAGING,  
APPLYING &  
DEVELOPING**

of Creative Thinking of ALL employees.

Alan has been a/an. . .

- \ architect (both US nationally certified & licensed in GA, FLA, MI)
- / interior designer
- \ graphics and signage designer
- / freelance cartoonist
- \ freelance writer
- / college art and design professor
- \ television news writer and editor
- . . . among 47 jobs (1 day to 20+ years)

7 professions from 1960 to 1984 and has worked full time since 1984 in his 8th profession-- speaking & consulting.

Education consists of . . .

**Ph.D.** doctorate in Educational Psychology  
majoring creative thinking  
**M.Ed.** masters in guidance & counseling  
focusing on gifted/ talented/ creative  
**M.A.** masters in art (dual major: visual  
communication & interior arch.)  
**B.S.** bachelors in architecture

Extensive workshop training in . . .  
creative thinking, problem solving,  
teaching & training skills

has given over 2300 paid presentations since 1976

serves on various Executive Development  
Institute faculties each year.

has worked and travelled in 49 states/44 countries  
on 6 continents.

**for fun Summer 2001** he traveled around the world [New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Dubai, Turkey, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, England, France] and to South Africa and Mauritius in the Fall.

each year he presents on creative thinking around the U.S., Canada, Turkey plus South Africa, & has spoken in Mexico, Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, Trinidad, Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Great Britain, France, & Mauritius.

has for over 5 years published his weekly  
**Creativity Challenges** since January 1997 .

has had chapters or articles published in several professional books

has written: 10 books many training workbooks and 250+  
published articles including. . .

**BROKEN CRAYONS: Break Your Crayons & Draw Outside the Lines**  
**We Are...?!**

- Understanding Yourself More in Order to Understand Others  
**Ooops!** - An Off-the-Wall Approach to Creative Problem Solving  
**Have Balloons, Hoola Hoops & Crayons. Let's Meet!**

**is an active member of**

the Creative Education Foundation,  
CPSI Colleague  
Leadership Service & Commitment Award  
American Creativity Association  
Board Member & Director  
National Center for Creativity & Innovation  
National Speakers Association  
Georgia Speakers Association  
National Storytellers Membership Association  
Southern Order of Storytellers



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### Keynotes & Breakout Sessions

Each can be a 45 min. Keynote  
up to a 3 hr. Breakout, a full-day or modules of  
a 3 to 5 day training program.

#### leading with a little "I"

Leading Styles, 4 Keys and 20 Skills  
for Productive Leading Today & Tomorrow

#### BROKEN CRAYONS

Supporting, Promoting, Recognizing, Encouraging, Applying and  
Developing the creativeness of all your staff in any workplace:  
private, public, volunteer to generate more ideas and solutions.

#### Is What They Believe They Heard What I Truly Think I Said?

Communication skills & styles for today's workplaces. STIR-  
Show Me, Tell Me, Involve Me & Reach Me to Communicate w/  
me.

#### We're Chargin' Up What Hill? To Do What?

Developing successful teams through  
integrating all the diversities & talents of  
each of the members.

#### Clients - Sample Listing

Nestle Foods  
General Motors  
CertainTeed  
Kimberly-Clark  
DuPont  
Duck Head Apparel  
SRCUS  
Alcoa FCU  
MS CU League  
Gold Coast FCU  
Thiele Kaolin  
Battelle  
Robbins AFB  
GECC

Gillete-Stationery  
Halliburton  
Gold Kist  
J & J  
Gulfstream Aerospace  
Georgia-Pacific  
AT&T FCU  
NCCUN  
Southeastern FCU  
AGE FCU  
Pro-Med  
Georgia D.O.T.  
Ft. Gordon  
Southern Bell

