



Virtual Engagement

New ways to connect, communicate, and celebrate together.



When we're in the office, we take time to catch up with one another, share our favorite binge-worthy shows, and swap tales of homelife.

While we're all working from home — let's not lose sight of how important these personal connections can be. We're using conference calls and email threads to get work done. Of course. But here are a few teambuilding ideas to keep morale high and connections strong.

Icebreakers: Quick and easy ways to rally the team at the start of a meeting.

Chit Chat Take 5

This one may be obvious — but taking a few minutes at the start of the meeting to catch up can go a long way. Set aside five minutes or so to catch up with one another and see how everyone is doing. Volunteer your own experiences to get the ball rolling — “I went for a great hike this week. Did anyone else do something fun?”

Q & A Introductions

This one is simple. At the start of a meeting, ask everyone to take turns introducing themselves and their role, and then ask them to answer an engaging question. People's personalities will start to shine through and you'll have a little fun. You should consider going first to set the tone and ask each person to “pass the mic” as you go.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What's the weirdest food you've ever eaten?
- Are you a dog person? Cat person? Or neither?
- If you were a baseball player, what would your walk-up music be?
- Where is your favorite place to travel?
- What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?
- What is your favorite tradition or holiday?



- If you had a time machine, would you go back in time or into the future? Why?

This icebreaker can be used via email, too. Start a thread with a question or two and ask for responses — or simply send them out ahead of the meeting so people can think about their answers.

Who Is It?

- Prior to a team meeting, ask each employee to send you a fun fact about themselves that most people don't know. Then, read them out loud at the start of your meeting and have other team members guess who connects to the fact.

Hometown Fun Facts

- Ask team members to share three unusual facts about where they grew up or their favorite place to visit. This is a great way to learn something new while also getting a better understanding of someone's culture or background.

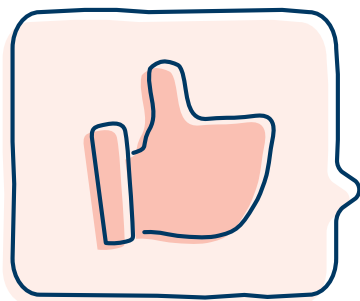
Employee Recognition

- A little bit goes a long way here. Studies have shown that a lack of employee appreciation can lead to turnover. Take a few minutes at the start of a meeting to recognize an employee's work or personal accomplishments. You can also consider sending a weekly email or a handwritten note.

Watercooler Talk: In lieu of typical office chit chat, consider these alternatives.

Goal Getters.

Encourage each person on your team to share a goal — no, not a Workday goal — but rather a personal goal they're working hard to achieve. You'll find your team may be working toward similar goals or could benefit from the support of the group. Check in often with each other and virtually cheer your team on.



Virtual Coffee Break

Set up a quick meeting and encourage your team to “grab a cup of joe” together. This is a quick and easy way to connect with one another and nudge everyone to take a few minutes away from work.

Recipe Roundup

With restaurants closed, we’re likely cooking at home more than ever. Encourage your team members to swap recipes with one another, post photos of the finished product, and give tips for whipping up something delicious. You could even do a theme a week — can’t-stop-eating cookie recipes or grilled-to-perfection dinner ideas.

Games: Teambuilding meets entertainment.

Virtual Team Trivia

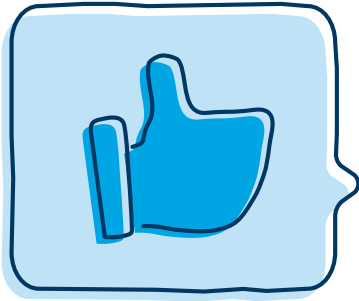
Your team may be missing out on happy hours and other social outings with each other. Set up a virtual trivia game to get the team thinking together while also having fun. Break the group up into teams and set up a quick presentation of trivia questions for everyone to answer.

Virtual Dance Party

This is a great way to keep energy up during a meeting. At the start of a meeting, or halfway through, start playing a song and encourage everyone to get out of their seats and move. An upbeat song can really change the mood of a call — and since we’re all virtual — you can really dance like no one is watching.

Word Association

A wonderful and nonintimidating way to get everyone’s voice heard — read a prompt and then ask for a one-word answer. This could be something work-related like, “Pick one word to describe our company’s culture,” or something more personal, “Describe how your weekend was in one word.”



Fortunately/Unfortunately

A little story time fun for all — this game starts by reading a sentence and then passing it to a team member to add to the story. The kicker is that each person must start the sentence with “fortunately” or “unfortunately.” You’ll quickly see how the story takes twists and turns. This can also be done through an email thread.

AS AN EXAMPLE:

Leader: Johnny raced across the parking lot — he had only minutes to make it to his job interview.

Teammate 1: Unfortunately, when he reached his car, he realized his keys were inside and the doors were locked.

Teammate 2: Fortunately, his car is a convertible. He jumped over the door and sped away.

Movie Night or Book Club

As a team, agree to watch the same movie or to read the same book, and then use it as a way to connect with each other. Share your reviews and opinions, discuss your favorite character or flex your creativity by giving an alternative ending.