



Using innovative and creative ice-breaker strategies can help enable learners to get to know each other and try to be able to form effective online learning teams. You may think that some of these suggestions are too lightweight for adult learner groups. However, one or two of them, carefully chosen, will help establish online interactions and collaboration and lead to more in-depth knowledge sharing and learning later on.

- W Introduce yourself using six descriptive words.
- W What are the most popular given names in your culture? Ask each person to explain the origin of his/her name, the reason it was chosen and any special cultural significance.
- W If you were an animal, what would you be? Can we make up a farmyard, zoo, circus, or jungle?
- W What musical instruments do you play? Can we form a band or orchestra with our skills and experience?
- W Do you have any domestic pets? Why did you choose this kind of animal? What would happen if our pets met each other? How did you choose their names?
- W If we were setting up a business, what could you contribute? What products would you like to make or what processes would you like to set in train?
- W Give one URL that illustrates your favourite hobby
- W If you were leaving to go on a holiday or a business trip what three essential items would you put in your suitcase? What kind of packer are you? Do you throw everything in and sit on the case? Do you have one or two specially selected items, carefully folded...or what? Compare similarities and differences.
- W What's your favourite smell? Can you describe it online? Why is it important to you?
- W What's the most important lesson life/being an e-moderator/working in this company/living in this place has taught you up until now?
- W Offer a cartoon or humorous picture. Ask for reactions.
- W In what circumstances do you behave "safely" and when might you take "risks"? Can we find common categories?



- W What's your favourite town? Take us on a virtual tour of it. Each participant comments on whether they have visited for real or virtually.
- W What's your favourite journey? Take us along it. Start a discussion based on some feature you see along the way.
- W In # words, what's the plot of your favourite novel? Compare and contrast the different plots.
- W What items would you put in your virtual shopping basket and why? Are there similarities and differences in the group?
- W What's your favourite word/expression, and why? Can we build them into a story?
- W If we were to have a fancy dress party, what theme would you choose for this group? What would you come as? What periods of history/literature/ continents of the world do we represent?
- W Who's your favourite actor and why? Have we all chosen different people?
- W Who's the person you'd most like to meet from your discipline and why? What would she/he say about working online?
- W Who's the historical figure you most identify with and why? Would they like the Internet? How would they use it?
- W If you were offered a soapbox, what would you talk about? Could you condense the points into 50 words?
- W What's your favourite gadget and why? Will it help you communicate on this course?
- W What would you like to see invented and why?
- W If I ruled the world...