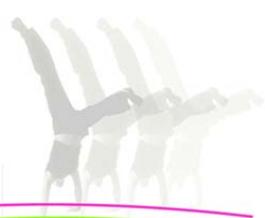# Spoons

Purpose

Spoons is a lateral thinking game; it can be used when the group's energy is a bit low or if you've been doing intense work and a bit of light relief is needed! It may also help a group that is working mechanically to be more creative.

Timings

As long as needed. This will depend largely on the type of event being run and the number of delegates attending.

Instructions

1. Have the group (including you) sit in a circle of chairs *(not behind desks!)* where you can all see each other.

2. Tell them you are going to pass two spoons or pens or markers around the group.

3. Tell them there is one simple, unchanging rule that determines whether someone passes the objects to the next person "crossed" or "uncrossed".

4. The objective of the game is to work out what the rule is.

5. You pass them, see 8 below, and say whether they are crossed or uncrossed.

6. When the next person passes them on, you say again whether they are crossed or uncrossed but *not* why.

7. When someone works out the rule, she or he should continue to pass the objects and say whether they are crossed or uncrossed until everybody has worked out what the rule is.

8. The rule is that the objects are passed "crossed" if the person passing them has her or his *legs, or ankles, crossed* and "uncrossed" if they are not. Note that what people do with the objects is irrelevant!

Facilitator notes:

- This can be an intensely frustrating game for people - usually very intelligent people - who don't get it.

- If you judge the frustration level is getting too high, then drop a few gentle hints like saying you are in two minds about whether the "spoons" are crossed or uncrossed while crossing and uncrossing your legs!

- It is certainly time to do this if people are laughing *at* the person who is stuck rather than *with* him or her.

- When you are done, you may want to have a brief discussion about lateral thinking and/or hear about the increasingly desperate hypotheses some people where imagining for the rule.