



## Purpose

This is a quick fire 'fun based' activity designed for use whenever delegates are starting to tire. A good time to use it is directly after lunch or during a heavy session where the topic needs to be broken up. It has the impact of re-stimulating delegates and helps to enhance their retention of information by getting them up and moving again.

It is also really useful for showing what can happen when people are not focused on listening or when people don't work together to support one another. Therefore it can work really well on communication and team building training courses/events or team meetings.

## Timings

10 minutes (although this can be increased in necessary).

## Instructions

- Explain the rationale of the activity.
- Ask delegates to form a large circle and give each one either a pencil or a pen.
- Explain that you will read them the tale of Tom Wright using the brief that follows. During this story they must pass their pencil/pen to their right when they hear the word 'right' and to their 'left' when they hear the word 'left'.
- Tell delegates that at any one time each person should only have one pencil/pen in their hands.
- Now tell the story watching for people passing their pencil/pen in the wrong direction.
- At different points during the story stop and see what delegates have in their hands. If people are doing well, speed up the rate of telling the story.
- To make it fun allocate delegates three points each which they must not lose or each time a person has more than one item they are knocked out of the game.



## Discussions points

- Ask what did this activity show?
- Ask who was actively listening?
- Ask who was focused on themselves and not the group and grabbed a pencil/pen off the person next to them in order to satisfy the rules of the activity?
- The same principle applies if a person had three or four items – who focused on themselves and simply tried to 'dump' all their 'excess baggage' onto a colleague next to them?
- How often do some of these examples happen back at work?
- What is the impact of this happening at work?
- (De-motivation, resentment, breakdown of team spirit, lack of respect between colleagues, performance drops, key people (skills) leave).



## Trainers brief – The story of Tom Wright

### The Story of Tom Wright:

It was Tuesday and Tom Wright couldn't wait to get home from school. As he turned his bike left into Right Street and passed the 'keep left' sign on the right side of Right Street his thoughts turned to Scouts. He had just been taught that the right way to shake hands in the Scouts was with his left hand. He had also been shown how to salute with his right hand.

#### ***(Stop and check what delegates are doing)***

This was a problem for Tom Wright as he didn't know his left from his right, or so his teacher Mr Leftbottom said.

After Tom Wright had swung his bike left into the Wright residence, he raced up the stairs and turned right into the right bedroom to get his uniform.

Mrs Wright had left his uniform hanging right beside the left wardrobe.

#### ***(Stop and check what delegates are doing)***

She had also left Tom Wright – right beside the fridge – a pile of left-over biscuits. They went right into his left pocket.

Mrs Wright kissed Mr Wright on the left cheek and took Tom Wright to the Scout den, which was left of the bakery.

On the right night if you stood to the left of the right flagpole at the Scout den you could smell the left-over bread.

#### ***(Stop and check what delegates are doing)***

Tom Wright and Mrs Wright turned right into the left driveway and arrived at Scouts.

The Scout leader was right there to meet them with that famous left handshake and a smile right across his face."

#### ***(Stop and check what delegates are doing)***