

Top five virtual icebreakers

Icebreakers are short activities to help you and your participants learn more about each other. They can be great ways to make a human connection, particularly in virtual settings, where participants may find it challenging to find opportunities to connect. Just as with all other activities you conduct in your meetings and workshops, ensure that these take place in a safe and inclusive setting, and that participants are given the choice to participate to the extent they feel comfortable.

Note: The below activities can be adapted for larger workshops by assigning participants into smaller groups using breakout rooms. See [Tips for managing breakout rooms](#) for more information.

Story of your name

Group size: Flexible

Duration: 1-2 minutes per person

Tool(s) needed: virtual meeting platform with audio enabled

Preparation: None

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Ask participants to share how they got their name or an interesting story about their name. Remember to begin by sharing your own!

Emoji check-in

Group size: Medium to large (10 or more people)

Duration: 5 minutes

Tool(s) needed: virtual meeting platform with a chat feature that contains emojis

Preparation: None

2

Ask participants to pick an emoji that best describes how they are feeling right now. This can be used as a check-in activity at the beginning of a meeting or to gauge how learners feel about a workshop topic or activity.

Draw your superpower

Group size: Small to medium (up to 10)

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Tool(s) needed: interactive whiteboard (e.g. whiteboard feature within virtual meeting platform, or an online application such as [Google Jamboard](#))

Preparation: None

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Ask participants what their superpower is and to draw themselves as a superhero with that power.

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Pick a pic

Group size: Small to medium (up to 10)

Duration: 1-2 minutes per person

Tool(s) needed: virtual meeting platform

(Optional feature: customizable backgrounds for video)

Preparation: None

(Optional: pick a series of images in advance, choosing a common theme if you like, e.g. cute animal pictures. Free stock images can be found on websites such as [Pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com), [Unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com), and [Pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com).)

Ask participants share a picture of their choosing and tell the group why they chose it. If the virtual meeting platform you are using allows participants to customizable their video background, they can set their background to the image they choose.

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Icebreaker questions

Group size: Small to medium (up to 10)

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Tool(s) needed: Randomizer tool (e.g. [Picker Wheel](#), [WheelDecide](#))

Preparation: Prepare a list of questions you would like to ask your participants. Input the questions into the randomizer tool and save the shareable link to the tool.

Some example questions may be:

- What is your favourite movie/tv show/book? Why is it your favourite?
- Tell us about the best teacher you have ever had.
- What is something that always cheers you up?
- If you could only eat one dish for an entire year, what would it be?
- What is something you wish you had started doing earlier in your life?
- What is your happiest memory?
- Imagine your perfect day. Where would you go or what would you do?

Share the link to the tool with participants and take turns asking and answering the questions. A [sample wheel](#) using the above questions can be found here.

Special thanks to the participants in our FL-EN-002 [Financial Literacy for facilitators course](#) for inspiring some of the ideas in this resource.

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