

Back-to-Back Drawing

Communication Exercise

Instructions

- 1 Pair off group members, and instruct them to sit back-to-back.
- 2 Give one member (the “listener”) a blank piece of paper and a pencil, and the other member (the “speaker”) a geometrical image from pages 2 – 4.
- 3 Ask the speaker to describe the geometrical image in detail. The drawer will attempt to recreate the image on their blank piece of paper, based upon the instructions. Neither member can see the others’ paper, and the listener may not communicate with the speaker. Allow 5 – 10 minutes for this portion of the exercise.

Discussion Questions

Speaker

What steps did you take to make sure your instructions would be clear? How can these steps be translated to real-life conversations?

What was it like not having feedback from the listener during the exercise?

What we mean to say, and how it’s interpreted, are often not the same. What can you do while speaking to reduce the risk of miscommunication in real-life conversations?

Listener

What did you like about the speaker’s instructions?

Did you find that any of the speaker’s instructions were ambiguous, or difficult to follow?

How do you think your results would’ve been different if you had been able to communicate with the speaker?

Communication is as much about being a good listener as being a good speaker. What steps can you take while listening to reduce misunderstandings in real-life situations?





