



Freeing the Prisoners of Boring,
Unproductive Presentations and Training

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Opener/Icebreakers Wooden Train Whistle

Objective

- Break the ice
- Become better acquainted
- Provide focus on the topic
- For a class three hours or longer
- For any audience
- For a group of 12 or more in subgroups of five to seven

Time

10-15 minutes

By the Trainer/facilitator:

Blow the whistle ...

- As a form of CSI (**Conspicuous Sensory Input**) to get the participants' attention
- To let people know it is **time to finish** an activity or move to the next stage, eg swap roles in a skills practice
- To let people know a **break is over** or beginning
- Give it away as a **reward**

By the Participants:

- Give one to each person and ask them to "blow the whistle" when they need a break, **want to ask a question**, or thing that you have strayed from the agenda
- Put one on each table and see if anyone uses it. Rest assured it will at least stimulate curiosity, always a **useful attitude** to have floating around a training room
- Give one to each group leader and ask them to blow it when **they need help** during a discussion or activity
- Have group leaders blow their whistle when they **finish an activity**
- Have a quiz like GameShow Pro (CTT Catalogue page 21) and use the train whistle and other noisemakers instead of buzzers. They are **much more fun**.
- Have your group analyse all the parts and functions of the train whistle and **draw analogies** with how your subject, whatever it might be, may have analogous parts and functions



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