

40 Fun Activity Ideas to Entertain and Engage Employees

1. Organize a Friendly Outdoor Match



Plan two teams from your office employees and organize a friendly match, e.g. soccer, basketball, softball or volleyball. You can plan it at a local park, or company property.

2. Hold a Cooking competition



Allow individuals to sign up as cooks or judges. The cooks will be put into a round robin style tournament. They must use items found in the office break room to prepare snacks for the judges. There will two rounds within each matchup; a savory round and a sweet round. The cooking competitions continue until one winner is identified.

3. Celebrate Each Other's International Day

Encourage them to celebrate each other's diverse backgrounds. On International Day people can bring in a favorite dish and share it with the rest of the staff.

4. Plan a Flash Mob Surprise



Have managers organize departments into large dance troupes. The department can vote on a song and then choreograph a group dance to surprise another department with. These flash mobs or surprise dances can occur throughout the year with each department getting their own chance to shine.

5. It's Okay to Encourage Prank Wars

Block out a week of the year, one that may be less busy than others, and allow departments to prank other departments. The pranks should be fun and harmless, but brew a sense of friendly mischief and competition between departments.

6. Secret Snowman



Around the December holidays, put everyone's name in a bucket and pass it around, allowing each person to pick out a name. They then buy a gift for the person they picked out of the bucket. Gifts can be different. However it is recommended that a price limit be set for the gifts...

7. The Bridge Challenge

Organize teams and supply building equipment such as Popsicle sticks, newspapers, tape and glue. Each team needs to create a small bridge that can connect two books placed two feet apart. The team with the bridge that can hold the most weight will be crowned the winner.

8. Guess The Baby Picture



Have everyone bring in a baby picture of themselves. After placing the pictures in a common space allow all people time to see them all. Then, hold a vote seeing if people can correctly match the pictures to their respective persons.

9. Volunteer at a Local Shelter



Organize a day where everyone from the office can offer volunteering service at a local shelter. This can be done on a work day or on the weekend.

10. Hold a Scavenger Hunt



Plan an office wide scavenger hunt First, you need to organize several teams, and then leave clues all around the office. The first team to finish will be the winner.

11. Host a Trivia Night



Break the office into teams and host a trivia night. Each team will have the opportunity to win a point if they are the first to correctly answer a question. Hold several rounds, eliminating the lowest scoring team at the end of each round, until you are left with two teams. Save the hardest questions for the last round, allowing the two remaining teams to call on eliminated persons for help.

12. A Game Break During Lunch

Host a card game or board game tournament during lunch time. Make available various board games and several sets of cards for people to use.

13. The Egg Drop



Provide teams with crafting supplies such as cotton balls, tape, newspaper and cardboard. The teams must create an egg holder that will prevent the egg from being cracked when dropped from a predetermined height. The winning team is the team whose egg doesn't break and has the lightest weighing holder.

14. Organize a Three Legged Race



Make groups of two employees. Each partnership will be tied together at the ankles and must compete in race against other partnerships. The team to finish first and remain tied together wins the race. This can be done in conjunction with other activities.

15. The Human Knot



Have all participating employees form a circle. After the circle is formed, people will hold the right hand of one employee and the left hand of another employee. Make sure people holding hands are standing across from each other so a human knot can be formed. The goal of this activity is to untie this knot without dropping your partners' hand.

16. Blind Folded Obstacle Course

Create an obstacle course through the office. People who volunteer to go through the course are blindfolded and guided through the course by persons.

17. Cup Stacking



Provide each team with the same amount of plastic cups, making sure to keep the amount unknown until the start of the competition. Each team must use all of the cups to create a pyramid. Then they must break down the pyramid by stacking the cups one into the other. If a cup is missing from the stack or if a cup falls out of the pyramid, then the team must start again from scratch. Cup stacking can be very competitive – check out videos online of some of the champions – they're fast!

18. Plan a BBQ Party For Employees and Their Families



Host a weekend BBQ for staff and their families. Make sure to have several accommodating food options as well as games for kids and adults to take part in.

19. Monthly Birthday Bashes



Pick a day each month to celebrate the birthdays of all those born that month. Decorate the office and provide a cake with names of all the birthday people on it.

20. Hold a Pumpkin Carving Competition



Host office wide pumpkin carving competitions during the autumn season. People can carve anything of their choice, however bonus points for office themed carvings.

21. Two Truths and a Lie

Have people share two truthful facts and a lie about themselves. The other people must guess out of those three statements which one is a lie.

22. Toilet Paper Ice Breaker



Hand out a roll of toilet paper, instructing your people to take as many pieces as they think they will need. When everyone has taken some toilet paper, inform the group that they must share one fact about themselves for each piece of toilet paper they took.

23. Drawing As The Partner Dictates

Organize the team into several partnerships. Each group of partners sits back to back while drawing what their partner is dictating to them. Eventually they will be able to look at each other's artwork to see if it was what they had had in mind.

24. Telephone Game



In this communication activity, people stand in a line waiting for a message from the person standing to his or her left. The first person in line picks a message to whisper down the line. This goes on until the message reaches the last person who then says the message out loud. The goal is to have the same message at the end as the group had at the beginning.

25. Encourage a Marathon or Fun Run



Put together a team for a local fun run or marathon. Choose a champion for the project and recruit co-workers. If it's a charity run – the company may offer to pay registrations or match donations. The team can train together at lunchtimes.

26. Express your Feelings in Three Words or Pictures

Print out several pictures and words, both positive and negative. Spread them out on a table and ask people to pick any combination of three words and/or pictures to describe how they feel about a certain project or deadline.

27. Pick Up Tennis Balls Without Touching

You can create 2-3 teams. Each team needs one small bucket, one larger bucket and several tennis balls. The idea is to put as many tennis balls as possible in the larger bucket without touching the balls with your hands or arms in the time allotted.

28. Scenario Jenga



Personalize your Jenga set for the workplace. On each piece write out a workplace scenario that your people could potentially encounter. Ask each employee to pick a piece out of the assembled tower and tell the group how they would handle the scenario which is written on their piece.

29. Can You Create the Tallest Tower



Supply teams with various objects such as newspaper, Popsicle sticks, tooth picks, glue, tape and marshmallows. The team that can create the largest tower in the allotted time is the winner of the competition.

30. Celebrate The Earth Day

On Earth Day, have each department plant a tree. Also you can create small groups and let them discuss ways that the office can reduce waste.

31. The Floor is Lava



The objective of this activity is to get your entire team from one side of the room to the other, without having anyone touch the floor. In order to achieve this goal, the group can use objects like chair, tool, paper, or other furniture available.

32. Surprise Colleagues with a Gift

At the beginning of each year, buy a number of plain, white ceramic mugs. Each month, a department will decorate the mugs with motivational messages and fill the

mugs with treats and snacks and gift them to another department. This will continue until each department has been surprised.

33. Organize Bi-Weekly Yoga Classes



Hire a certified yoga instructor to come into the office every two weeks, giving your people the opportunity to unwind and relax during a stressful business day.

34. The Pasta Challenge



Make groups of two. Provide each pair with two paper plates and an uncooked string of spaghetti. The goal of this activity is for each pair to balance the pasta between them only using the paper plates, without breaking the pasta.

35. Paper Toss Basketball

Place one small trash can at the end of a room and have everyone line up right in front of it. Start shooting the paper ball as close to the bin as possible. Those who

can make the shot continue to the next round where everyone needs to take one step away from the bin. Continue this until only one person is left.

36. Keep an Office Coloring Table

Set aside a table in the office that is filled with various coloring books, pens, pencils and markers. Allow people to take coloring breaks when they need to reset their mind.

37. Plan a BINGO Night

Have an office wide Bingo night, providing your people something fun and light hearted to do. The winner of each round gets a special office themed prize.

38. Silent Line Up

The goal of this activity is to line up all employees according to their term in the office. Now they will have to communicate with each other nonverbally, in order to successfully complete the challenge.

39. Water Balloon Toss



This is a fun outdoor activity for a hot day. You can ask employees to bring a change of clothes. Break your team up into groups of two, providing each pair with a water balloon. Have each person stand ten steps away from their partner. When everyone is situated, yell “toss” and watch to see if everyone catches the water balloon. If anyone drops or pops their balloon they are eliminated. Continue until only one pair is left.

40. Tug-of-War



Organize an office wide tug-of-war tournament for all to participate. This can be department versus department or you can make teams of your choice.