



Starter

What you know, think you know...

- Individual
- Pairs
- Small group
- Whole group

Uses: This warm-up activity helps to connect with the participants' previous knowledge about a topic and distinguishes between what is definitely known and what might be less certain. It's really useful for the facilitator to know what the participants already know.

Resources: 3 sheets of flipchart paper; lots of Post-it notes.

Time: 15-20 minutes.

What to do:

1. Put the three sheets of flipchart paper on the wall, headed up with the following. Alternatively, place in the middle of the circle:
 - What we know;
 - What we think we know;
 - What we know we don't know.
2. Individually, or in pairs, ask participants to record facts, no matter how simple, about the topic on Post-it notes. One per Post-it note.
3. They then decide which sheet of flipchart paper they feel most comfortable putting their Post-it notes on.
4. Review what is on each sheet. You could ask groups to take a sheet each and summarise what is on there. Move Post-it notes across sheets where appropriate.

Make it different:

- Add a fourth sheet; 'Questions we would like to find out about'. You could widen the discussion into the difference between facts and opinions.

Points to make:

- Collectively we have a lot of existing knowledge that we can draw on.
- Some things that we know may not actually still be facts; knowledge is constantly changing and may not always be fixed.

This is a really useful way of exploring what you know and would like to know before you begin a topic.