

Colourblind Plus®

An updated version of the original classic Colourblind® learning tool



Colourblind Plus® was developed as a more complex extension to the original Colourblind® activity which has been used internationally for 20+ years.

Colourblind Plus® aims to further enhance communication & descriptive skills, complex problem solving, and mutual understanding in teams using more abstract, complex shapes than the original Colourblind activity. It also provides more flexibility in the materials provided. This version offers opportunities to work with pairs, or small groups for a shorter duration; through to larger groups, in an extended, complex problem-solving activity.

Colourblind® Plus has 3 distinct activities that can be used independently or sequenced to build up communications skills to a point where the significant challenge of the large group version can be tackled.

Pairs Version (15 minutes activity time for up to 16 participants)

Working pairs (up to 4x) are seated back to back so they cannot see what shapes the other is holding. Optional observers can be appointed to each working individual. The pairs have to describe to each other which out of their shapes is the odd one out, purely by verbal description. The observers can provide feedback, and optionally switch with another working pair, to try the activity too.

Small Group (25 minutes activity time for up to 24 participants)

A small group of up to 12 blindfolded participants (plus optional observers) are seated. They are issued with some plastic components and similar to the paired exercise above, they need to collectively determine which one is the odd shape amongst the complete set of 12 x shapes, purely by verbal description. This activity can be used as a follow-on for those who completed the paired exercise above or as a stand-alone activity. Two groups of up to 12 per group may run in parallel using these materials should space and facilitation resources allow it.

Large Group (35 minutes activity time for ideally up to 14 participants)

This activity can be used as a follow-on for those who completed the small group exercise above or as a stand-alone activity. A group of ideally 14 (but up to 20) blindfolded participants (plus optional observers) are seated. They are issued with some plastic components and similar to the small group exercise above, they need to collectively determine which two shapes are missing amongst the complete set of 28 x shapes issued, purely by verbal description.

If you or your delegates are familiar with the original Colourblind® activity then Colourblind® Plus is the perfect addition to your library of experiential learning tools.

- Use it with a group as you would the original version and check whether they can apply their learning to a more difficult challenge.
- Use in the paired and small group version, where the larger group version isn't a good fit with their typical learning challenges
- Use with a group with experience of the original version but without declaring the new version, and check what assumptions and challenges exist when a new problem is approached using old 'rules'.



"Colourblind® Plus provoked some interesting discussion and observations amongst a fairly senior team recently and highlighted some critical development needs which also seem to manifest themselves back in the real workplace. Lots of fun and learning!"

Fraser Murray – Rock the Boat Consulting (Hong Kong)

To add COLOURBLIND PLUS® to your resource library: