

Listening Exercise Draw a Clown

Participants are given a sheet of paper and a pen and asked to listen to the instructions in order to complete their drawing. (Ensure that they are put at ease in respect of the need for drawing skill, that there will be no prizes for artistic merit) This is a head, arms and hands drawing.

The facilitator can sit with their back to the group and talk very quietly if they want to use the exercise to identify and discuss barriers to effective listening.

1. The clown has a long, narrow face.
2. He has short curly hair.
3. He is wearing a short pointed hat with a star on top.
4. There are three triangles on the hat.
5. The clown has a big nose and crosses for eyes.
6. He is very, very happy
7. His ears are huge.
8. He has a large ruffled collar and a ribbon tied in a bow.
9. His hands are up and he is wearing gloves
10. In his left hand he has a heart shaped balloon
11. In his other hand there is a flower. It is a rose.
12. The clown has a pinch moustache.
13. He has big fat eyebrows.
14. He has a circle on each cheek.
15. Give your Clown a name.

Ask the group to share their finished drawings and comment on how easy/ difficult they found the exercise.

Ask them to think of their posture?
Were they aware of other people in the room?
Can they identify any background noise?
Were they able to concentrate?
What about the speaker, the language etc ?
What about the order of the information?