A welcoming classroom mixer with people bingo

Help a small group start conversations with a pass-friendly bingo activity and a short reflection.

20 minutes | 6 participants for the ready-made cards; generate more for a larger group

Who this is for

Groups able to read the prompts or work with a helper. Read or hear simple conversation prompts. Adults should check every prompt for the group before printing.

Prepare

Six different people-bingo cards, pencils and the host plan. For a larger group, use the maker and set the required card count.

1. Set a welcoming rule | 4 minutes

Read sample prompts. Explain that anyone may pass, stay seated, or answer with a partner. Do not require private information.

2. Talk in pairs | 8 minutes

Find someone who chooses to answer a prompt. Ask a follow-up question and mark the square. Each person may mark at most one square per conversation.

3. Check a line | 4 minutes

A horizontal, vertical or diagonal line of five, including the free centre, finishes a round. Let the player explain two conversations; do not demand personal proof or names.

4. Reflect together | 4 minutes

Invite one new common interest and one question they would like to ask next time. Continue for a second round if the group prefers a noncompetitive activity.

Questions, options and checking

What this practises

Start a conversation, listen, and find something in common

Questions to ask

What made it easier to start talking? / What did you and a partner have in common? / Which prompt would you change to make the activity more welcoming?

Offer more support

Use seated pairs, read prompts aloud, or choose a 3 × 3 grid in the maker. Remove prompts that do not fit your group.

Extend the activity

Let participants write a new neutral prompt, then preview the revised card set before the next meeting.

Answers and checking

There is no single answer to the reflection sheet. Check a claimed line against the agreed marking rules. Encourage listening and let participants keep personal details private.

Limits and care

This is an introductory conversation activity, not a measure of social ability. Passing is always allowed. No caller sheet is needed: people respond to the prompts themselves.

Open the guide and tool

https://handydaytools.com/blog/classroom-mixer/

https://bingo.handydaytools.com/icebreaker-bingo/

Print page 3 for participants. Keep pages 1-2 with the adult. Download the separate sample game or puzzle from the guide when listed.

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A conversation worth keeping

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

A shared interest (no names needed):

A helpful follow-up question:

A prompt I would change:

A welcoming rule for next time: