

Sherlock Exercise

Instructions:

1. Distribute the following story. Have participants read the story 3 times and then turn the story face down.

Story:

A businessman had just turned off the lights in the store when a man appeared and demanded money. The owner opened the cash register. The contents of the cash register were scooped up, and the man sped away. A member of the police force was notified promptly.

2. Hand out the attached list of questions titled "Statements About the Story." Ask each person to respond to the questions individually.
3. After everyone is finished, gather participants into small groups of four to five people.
4. As a small group, read the story one more time and then turn it face down.
5. As a small group, participants must come to consensus on the answers to the questions. Remind them to mark their answers as a team in a way that will distinguish it from their individual answers.
6. After everyone is done, read the correct answers.
 1. Unknown – it was a businessman, he may not be the owner
 2. Unknown – it could have been a women
 3. False – a man did demand money
 4. Unknown – owner could have been a woman
 5. Unknown – does not say who scooped up the contents and does not say that anyone ran away
 6. True
 7. Unknown – do not know who scooped up the contents and there is no mention of anyone running away
 8. Unknown – only said contents of cash register, it could have had coupons, credit vouchers, etc
 9. Unknown – don't know that it was a robber and don't know if he demanded money of owner or businessman
 10. Unknown – businessman could be owner
 11. Unknown – don't know if anyone dashed out, only says sped away
7. Ask participants to count the number of correct answers as an individual and then as a team. Most of the time, the team score will be higher than the individual scores.
8. Discuss attached debrief questions.

Sherlock Exercise

Instructions:

Read the story 3 times and then turn the story face down.

Story:

A businessman had just turned off the lights in the store when a man appeared and demanded money. The owner opened the cash register. The contents of the cash register were scooped up, and the man sped away. A member of the police force was notified promptly.

Statements About The Story

1. A man appeared after the owner had turned off his lights.	True	False	Unknown
2. The robber was a man.	True	False	Unknown
3. A man did not demand money.	True	False	Unknown
4. The man who opened the cash register was the owner.	True	False	Unknown
5. The store owner scooped up the contents of the cash register, he ran away.	True	False	Unknown
6. Someone opened the cash register.	True	False	Unknown
7. After the man who demanded money scooped up the contents of the cash register, he ran away.	True	False	Unknown
8. While the cash register contained money, the story does not state how much.	True	False	Unknown
9. The robber demanded money of the owner.	True	False	Unknown
10. The story concerns a series of events in which only three persons are referred to: the owner of the store, a man who demanded money, and a member of the police force.	True	False	Unknown
11. The following events in the story are true: someone demanded money, a cash register was opened, its contents are scooped up, and a man dashed out of the store.	True	False	Unknown

Individual Score:

Team Score:

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn in doing the exercise?
2. Was it easy to develop consensus?
3. Did you compromise? Did you compromise too much?
4. Was there a group leader?
5. How well did people listen to one another?
6. Were there diverse opinions in the group?
7. When you answered the questions as an individual, did you feel you had the correct answers?
8. Were you surprised by the different points of view?
9. Did you feel more confident in completing your task working as a team or as an individual?
10. How can you apply what you learned in the exercise to your own situation?

Comment: This story is poorly written and ambiguous. It leaves a lot of room for self perceptions and judgments. Yet, how many situations are we in where there is ambiguity? Based on your own experiences and view of the world, we each make our own interpretations of the situation. Together, working as a team, we can be more accurate and complete in achieving our tasks.