

*Title of Lesson:* Human Hangman

*Curriculum Unit:* Communication

*Objectives:* To identify and understand nonverbal communication cues through creating a word as a group and a sentence as a class; To incorporate appropriate listening levels

*Materials:* sticky notes or index cards with individual letters/punctuation marks on them to create words and sentences.

*Directions:*

1. Use a quote or a statement about leadership to create individual index cards/sticky notes with one letter or punctuation mark on each piece.
2. Create one group per word by writing group numbers on the back of the index cards/sticky notes, e.g., for the word “action” the letters a, c, t, i, o, n might all have the number 3 on the back.
3. Hand out the cards/notes to participants, one per person. (If needed, some people can have more than one index card/sticky note, but make sure they are in the same number group.) Ask people to form groups based on the number on the back of their index cards/sticky notes.
4. Have groups form a word nonverbally with the letters they have.
5. Once all the words are formed, ask them to form a sentence using all the words.
6. Discuss the resulting sentence and the process used to create it.

*Notes:*

- If letters can form more than one word, don’t tell them if the word they created is “wrong.”
- Require nonverbal communication until the end or until you see frustration levels rising.

*Sample Processing Questions:*

- What did your index card/sticky note mean when you first got it?
- How difficult was it to form your word? Why?
- How difficult was it to form your sentence? Why?
- In what ways did you communicate?
- Was it easier with verbal or nonverbal communication?
- How can you apply this to communicating with peers, administrators, and others?

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