

TELEPHONE

Also known as Chinese Whispers.

The one where...

A sentence is whispered from player to player in a line until it reaches the last player, by which time it's normally become hilariously mangled.

This is a fun and silly game that's easy to set up and play. It's best played by moderate to large sized groups.

Time: Around one to two minutes, depending on the size of the group.

Equipment: N/A

No. of players: 6+

Age group: 5+

Physical effort: 1/5

Mental effort: 2/5

Difficulty: 2/5

This game is good for:

- Focus
- Listening
- Patience

Set up

The players form a single, straight line.

Playing the game

The facilitator thinks of a sentence and whispers it to the first player. The first player then whispers what they hear to the second player, the second to the third and so on. Once the final player has heard the sentence, they must reveal it to the rest of the group. It is best for facilitators to avoid stock phrases (e.g. 'she sells seashells by the seashore') and words that are overly long. A good rule of thumb is to provide a sentence that contains three memorable elements (e.g. 'the **car** would not **start** on the **hill**').

Variations:

Facetime: in this version of the game, the sentence is replaced with a mimed action (e.g. cleaning your teeth, driving a car). The players all face one direction and are shown the mime by the player before them in the line, who makes them turn around by tapping them on the shoulder. The other players must not look while the mime is being performed. Once the mime has been seen by a player, that player can step out of the line to watch the rest of the fun unfold! As in Telephone, the final player must reveal the mime that they saw to the rest of the group. Just as sentences in Telephone should have three distinct elements, so should the mimes in Facetime. So, for example, if the action is cleaning your teeth, the elements could be putting toothpaste on the brush, brushing your teeth, and rinsing your mouth.

1/1 Telephones

Games Documentation Drafts - copyright ActNow Theatre

www.actnowtheatre.org.au

info@actnowtheatre.org.au

**actnow
theatre**