Virtual Meeting Icebreakers

for Remote Team Leaders

Content

Remote meetings are a great way for teams to make task and project management decisions.

However, there are virtual communication challenges that remote work imposes on teams:

- restrictions on non-verbal means (facial expressions, gestures, etc.)
- dependence on the stability of the internet and increased risks of communication breakages
- lack of spontaneity
- cultural differences can become more obvious
- probability of malfunction on the communication platforms leading to reduced quality in sound or visibility.

To create a smooth experience in virtual meetings, remote team leaders can initiate the application of conversation starters known as **meeting icebreakers**.

Virtual meeting icebreakers for remote teams are all about creating an atmosphere that makes everyone feel comfortable, relaxed, and ready to work.

Why Meeting Icebreakers Are Important

Virtual meeting icebreakers enhance team togetherness.
An otherwise scary experience is made more fun with virtual conversation starters.

They also help increase employee engagement because everyone gets the chance to meet each other and work together remotely without losing productivity.

Any type of **activity** that serves as means of effective communication can be a constructive unit for launching a virtual meeting with guaranteed success.

Virtual meeting icebreakers for remote teams can be as simple as starting off with a fun **fact** about yourself or your company.

They can also be **questions** and **games** designed to get people talking and sharing their opinions.

Why They Matter: Encouragement is the oxygen for employee engagement.

Below, there are some examples of meeting icebreakers you can use in multiple types of virtual team meetings.
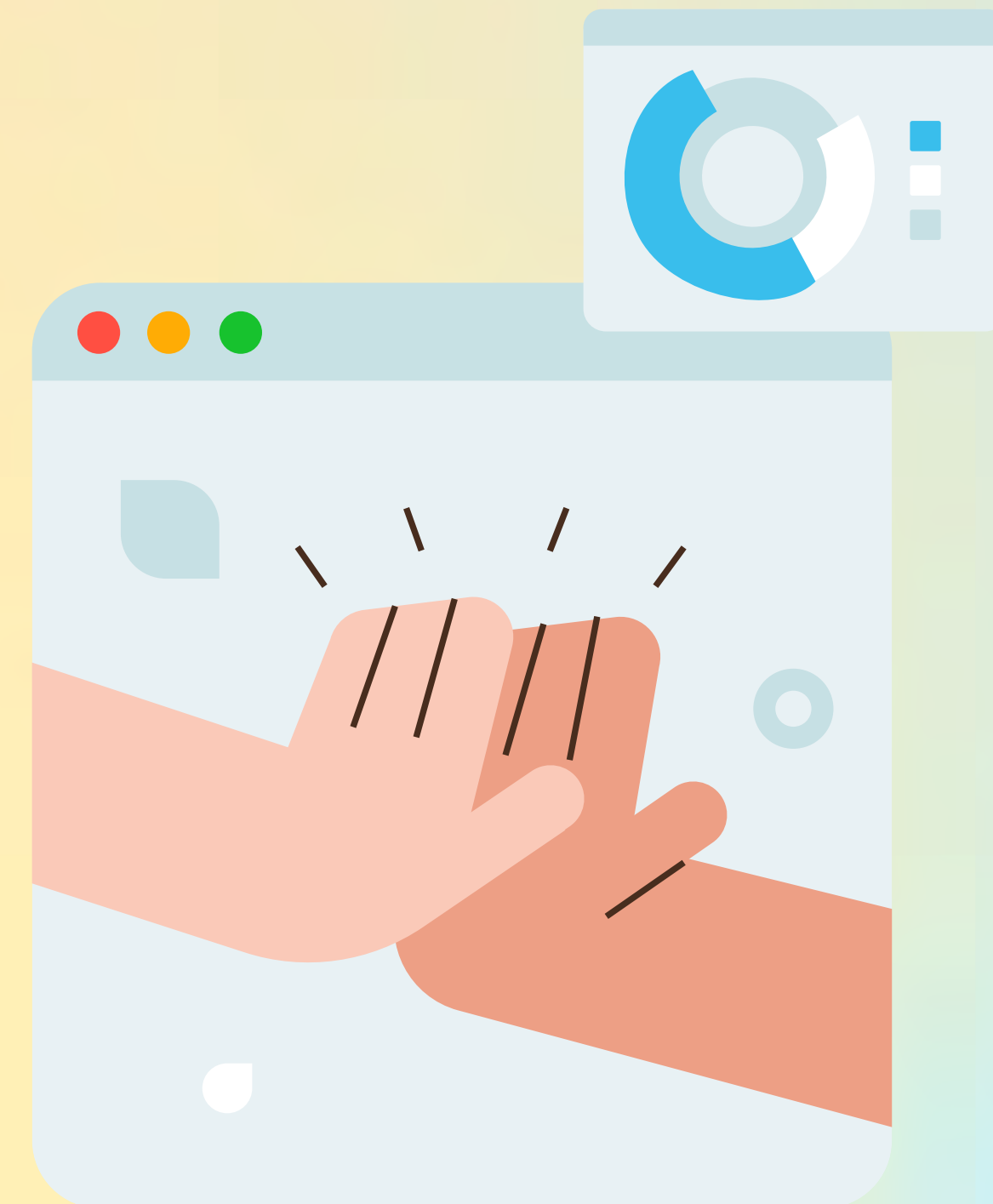
30 Icebreaking Questions

TIP: The questions can be grouped into microsessions. At one meeting, a manager can try only yes-no questions to warm up a team. To make a group talk deeper, managers can try opinion-demanding questions.

1 How would you scale your mood today from 1 to 10 with 10 as the highest?	**2** Do you have a 'zoom' shirt? Overall, did your wardrobe change with a shift to remote work?	**3** Do you have anyone you enjoy following on social media?
4 Do you know your stress triggers?	**5** What is your favorite media platform?	**6** Would you call yourself a time-waster? If yes, what are your fav time-wasting sites?
7 Are you an introvert or an extrovert?	**8** What are your weekend plans?	**9** Do you like pizza?
10 Are you a morning or night person?	**11** What is your favorite media platform?	**12** What is your favorite food?
13 What kind of content do you like best?	**14** How often do you post?	**15** Can you cook?
16 What is the cuisine you love most?	**17** Do you binge-watch?	**18** Are you a coffee or tea person?
19 Do you have any piece of wisdom you find useful?	**20** Do you have pets? Have you ever saved an animal?	**21** What habit do you consider the most horrific?
22 Who do you consider a successful person? Why?	**23** Who do you think is the most overrated celebrity?	**24** What book/movie/event has made an impact on your outlook?
25 How do you feel about strong language? Do you curse?	**26** Are you an avid reader? What books do you like?	**27** How do you listen to music? What music makes you productive?
28 What birthday present you received was the best/the worst?	**29** In some environments, tattoos are frowned upon. How justified is it? (Do you have a tattoo? If yes, how long did it take you to choose what tattoo you want?	**30** Have you ever given a speech in public? If yes, how would describe an experience? If not, would you like to try?

# 15 Icebreaking Activities and Games

Given the changing face of the global workforce, the need to foster communicative skills in employees cannot be understated.

According to Stanford Research Institute and Carnegie-Mellon, 75% of professional success comes from properly utilizing the potential of their soft skills.

Furthermore, researchers claim that employees feeling happy about their work are 12% more productive and generate 256% more ROI.

To encourage teams and improve the effectiveness of virtual meetings, hit two birds with one stone by using virtual meeting icebreakers.

By ditching the old-school formalities and engaging your employees in fun and imaginative activities, you're nurturing their problem-solving abilities while improving your workplace culture.
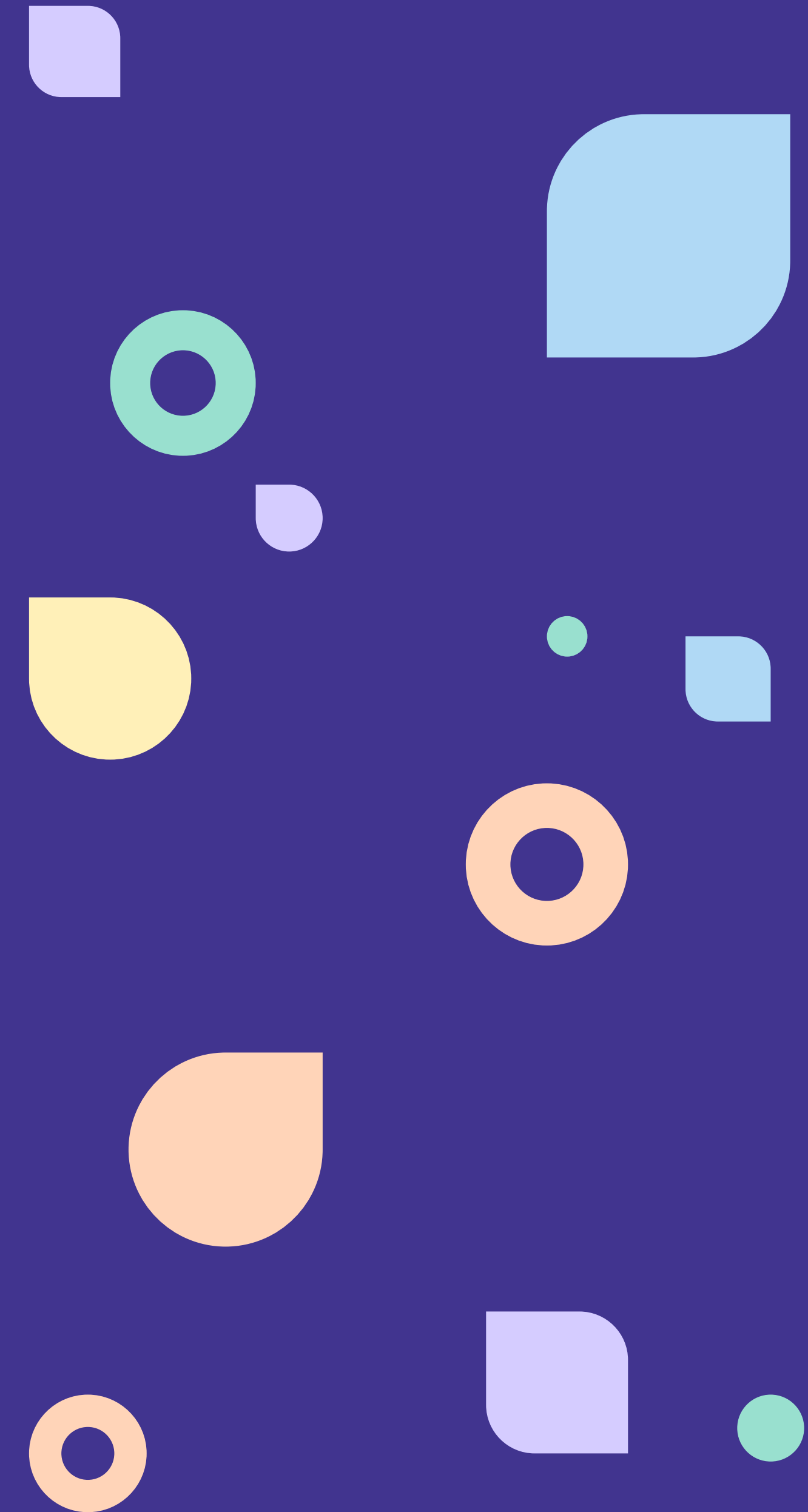
Here are a few highly engaging activities to get you started

1. Use videos or pictures from previous meetings as a starting point. Have each person share three words that describe what they learned from the video or picture.

2. Play two truths and one lie game: ask teams to introduce 3 facts about themselves, two of which are true and one is a lie. Let other team members guess which statement is a lie.

3. Ask everyone to describe themselves in five words or less—this is a fun way to get people talking with each other and sharing ideas.

4. Group photos. Take group photos before or after every meeting so that everyone feels included in the experience.

5. Ask everyone in the group to share something they love about working with their boss (this works especially well if there are other managers present).

6. Ask everyone in the group to share something they love about being part of the team.

7. Ask team members to choose the emoji that would reflect their mood at best.

8. Ask everyone in the group to share their idea of the perfect workday.

9. Ask everyone in the group to share their favorite tool they cannot do without during the day.

10. What 3 questions would you ask if had a chance to interview Elon Musk?

11. Give everyone a minute to prepare a list of questions they'd like answered by someone else in the meeting (these should be open-ended questions so people have an opportunity to connect).

12. Show pictures of home offices, label them with numbers and ask team members to choose one that matches their taste. Then let team members guess who chose what number.

13. Facilitate a game where each person has to talk about something they like or dislike about their job and why it's meaningful to them as part of the group effort. This helps people feel like they're part of something bigger than themselves—a team!

14. Divide the group into two parties and assign them the task of 'defending' a point of view (for instance, social media usage/gaming/ automated solutions make a positive impact on life and should be encouraged vs. social media usage/gaming/ automated solutions badly affect the intellect and must be minimized)

15. Give everyone a minute to prepare a story about themselves that they think would be interesting for everyone else in the room to hear (and make sure it's not too personal).

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Takeaways
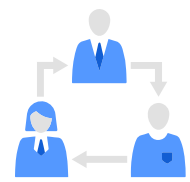
Connect your team

As a remote manager, you have to be creative in order to connect with your team. You may not be able to get everyone together in the same room, but that doesn't mean you can't foster a sense of cohesion and camaraderie. To take a step in overcoming virtual communication hurdles, remote managers use online icebreakers.

Use virtual icebreackers

Virtual icebreakers are tools that are used to help people communicate effectively during meetings or activities where they may not know each other very well. The icebreakers we list above can be used in any type of meeting (webinars, conference halls, general meetings, etc.) in small or big groups.

Solve problems together

Some common types of virtual meeting icebreakers include games or puzzles that require participants to solve problems together as part of their overall goal while others involve taking turns sharing personal information about themselves or what they like most about working at their company (which can include things like hobbies outside work hours).

Engage your team

Icebreakers are fun ways to get the team engaged right away and make them feel more comfortable with one another. They also help you get to know your employees better, which is important for building trust and creating a positive working environment.