

Eight cities Icebreaker

Time: about ½ hour **Target group:** People who have just met (online).

The purpose of this exercise is to help people establish contact and build trust through low-risk sharing of personal information with other members of their (online) group.

1. As your participants to list eight¹ cities in the world that are significant to them (for whatever reason).
2. Ask your participants to share that information. If you can, it probably would be useful to use different colours to mark these cities on a map of the world. If your course delivery system has a shared desktop or whiteboard, and you have a voice conferencing connection, that would be the thing to use. Otherwise you can use chat or a discussion board for this exercise.

For example:

One participant writes down: London, Tallinn, Freiburg-im-Breisgau, Bern, Ottawa, Toronto, Oshawa, Carp, Neuchâtel, Washington.

A second participant might write: Chicago, Rochester, MN, Winona, MN, La Crosse, WI, Surrey, BC, Manila, Philippines, Minneapolis, MN, San Antonio TX, Philadelphia, PA, Ottawa, ON. And so on.



Encourage conversation and exchange about the cities, why people were there, etc.

- *If you are doing this in a face-to-face class or can have one-to-one chats on your conferencing system*, you might want to ask participants to pair up, identify their eight cities and explain to their partner the significance of the eight cities, switch and then have each introduce his or her partner.
- If you have map of the world and different coloured markers, it would be good to have people mark and connect their cities on a map of the world.

¹ Eight, because a well-made list has eight items.

