

# How Quickly They Forget

Type:   X   **Introductory**            **Working**            **Closing**            **Game**  
Low Risk – Getting to know each other  
Growing Risk – Personal awareness  
Ending – Saying goodbye  
Active Exercise – For group building and fun

**Optimum Group Size:** 8-100

**Materials Needed:** paper or note cards, pencils.

## Outline of Activity:

Participants will see how difficult it is to recall the details of a face they were introduced to just moments before. This activity works best in the beginning of a session with people who do not know one another.

*Recently I had an experience that I've never known before. A person I had been introduced to on two other occasions didn't remember me when standing face-to-face the third time. His apology included, "I forget faces, but never names." With me it's the opposite; I forget names, but not faces. Which is the greater insult?*

Instruct participants to stand and find one participant they do not know and introduce themselves to that person. After about ten seconds, tell them to remain standing and arrange themselves back-to-back with the person they just met. Explain that they are not to look back at their partners. Pass out How Quickly They Forget cards and pencils. Instruct participants to take thirty seconds, ask them to turn around and see how many of their answers were correct.

Keep this one short and snappy. It doesn't have enough value to keep it going for a long time.

*Note: As a variation:*

- *Don't use cards; just ask them to name what they remember about their partner, with the partners letting them know if they are right or not.*
- *Give participants blank cards and ask them to write what they remember about their partners.*
- *Give participants blank cards and ask them to sketch their partners.*

## Goal:

Getting to know you; physical energizer; especially for big groups; pure fun.

## How to Process:

Processing is optional.  
What was most difficult for you during this game?  
How could it have been better?  
What did you learn from this game?  
Is this a competitive or cooperative game?

**Source or Submitted by:** Especially for Big Groups