

# Gibberish Feedback

## What is it for?

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A playful way to get feedback in a group without putting anyone on the spot

## Time & People

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10 - 30 minutes

Pairs

## Materials

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None

## Source

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Gary Schwartz, Applied  
Improvisation Network

## And also...

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## Description

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Gibberish is a made-up nonsense language that sounds like a language but is not. It is more than just repetitive sounds. It is usually accompanied by gestures and body language that help convey the meaning. It is not mime. Everyone has their own unique style of gibberish and it's worth doing some gibberish warm-up before doing this activity.

Participants are going to provide feedback in pairs, in front of the whole group. There is an element of performance that is important in this activity.

It can be feedback on a whole event, an activity, a presentation etc.

Provide two chairs separate from the rest of the group for the gibberish feedback. Person A and B sit in these chairs. Person A is providing feedback in gibberish and Person B is translating

Person A: When they are ready, they give their feedback in gibberish.

Person B: Provides a translation into English (or whatever is the common language of the group)

Continue swapping roles until everyone in the group has had a chance to provide feedback and be the translator.

### Important

Person A should agree enthusiastically with the translation provided (even if it is nothing like what they had in mind)

Person B should confidently translate the gibberish even if they have no idea what Person A was saying.

### Debrief

What does using gibberish reveal that other forms of feedback might not?

What ways does this activity make it safer to provide feedback that you are nervous about giving?