**Ice-Breaker: People Bingo**

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Bingo is one of the most popular ice breakers because it’s so easy to customize for your particular group and situation, and everyone knows how to play it.

**Ideal Size:** Groups up to 30. Divide larger groups. **Time Needed:** 30-40 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Bingo cards. See instructions below.

If you know your participants, make a list of 25 interesting traits that describe different aspects of them, things like, “plays the bongos,” “once lived in Sweden,” “has a karate trophy,” “has twins,” “collects coins,” etc.

If you don’t know your participants, make a list of more general traits like “drinks tea instead of coffee”, “loves the color orange,” “has two cats,” “drives a hybrid,” “went to Las Vegas last year.” You can make these easy or difficult depending on how long you want the game to take.

There are lots of places online where you can type in your traits and print your own customized cards. Some are free; some are not.

* [Teachnology](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/bingo/5/) has a card maker that allows you to shuffle the phrases on each card.
* [Print-Bingo.com](http://print-bingo.com/index.php) allows you to customize with your own words or use their suggestions.

If you’re making your own, bingo cards have five boxes across and five boxes down. B-I-N-G-O! A simple table in Word does the trick. Fill in the boxes on a master and make copies. Leave room for writing nanes

When you’re ready to play, give each participant a bingo card and a pen. Tell the group they have 25 minutes to mingle, introducing themselves, and finding people who match the traits on the card. They must put the person’s name in the corresponding .

The first person to fill five boxes across or down yells BINGO! and the game is over.

Then, ask participants to introduce themselves and share one of the interesting traits they learned about someone else.