

Team building

‘None of us is as smart as all of us.’
Japanese proverb

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Starting up

- A** What are the advantages and disadvantages of working in teams?
- B** For each box in the quiz below, tick the three statements that most apply to you. Then read the explanations on page 149.

What sort of team player are you?

Doers vs Thinkers	Details vs Ideas	Mind vs Heart	Planners vs Improvisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) I consider what I say. b) I contribute a lot in discussions. c) Action is more important than reflection. d) I listen to others before I say anything. e) Discussion gives me energy and ideas. f) I don't say a lot at meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) I often come up with unusual solutions. b) It's important to be realistic. c) People see me as a creative person. d) I like practical solutions. e) You shouldn't overlook details. f) You shouldn't get lost in details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) I like to think logically. b) I keep emotions out of decision-making. c) I avoid confrontation. d) I sometimes tread on people's toes. e) Understanding people is as important as being right. f) I care about other people's feelings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Meetings have to be prepared for carefully. b) I like surprises. c) I hate time-wasting at meetings. d) Too much time can be spent on preparation. e) People say I'm a punctual person. f) I need a deadline to get me going.

- C** Work in groups and compare your answers. Then discuss these questions.
 - 1 How important are thinking styles in effective teamwork?
 - 2 Do you think your group would make a good team, based on the results of the quiz? Explain why or why not.

Vocabulary

Prefixes

A Match the prefixes of these words to their meanings.

Prefix	Meaning of prefix		
1 <i>mismanage</i>	a) not	b) badly	c) former
2 <i>pro-European</i>	a) opposite	b) in favour of	c) before
3 <i>predict</i>	a) not enough	b) against	c) before
4 <i>post-industrial</i>	a) after	b) too much	c) not enough
5 <i>dishonest</i>	a) two	b) former	c) not
6 <i>ex-president</i>	a) opposite	b) former	c) after
7 <i>underdeveloped</i>	a) against	b) not enough	c) opposite
8 <i>antisocial</i>	a) opposed to	b) two	c) before
9 <i>bilateral</i>	a) against	b) after	c) two
10 <i>reconnect</i>	a) again	b) former	c) after
11 <i>irresponsible</i>	a) again	b) not	c) against
12 <i>hyperactive</i>	a) not enough	b) very	c) opposite

B Complete these two short texts with some of the words above.

The¹ of the United States was present at the signing of a² agreement between the USA and the EU on research into computer software. The agreement, which had been widely³ for some time, came about through support from⁴ senators.

Some of the⁵ countries profiled last month have run into serious balance of payments problems. In each case this has been due to⁶ of debts and⁷ leaders who have run up enormous expense accounts.

C Add prefixes to the words in the box to give their opposite meanings. Then use them to discuss the questions that follow.

communicative decisive efficient enthusiastic
flexible focussed imaginative loyal organised
popular practical sociable stable tolerant

- Who is the best person you have ever worked with? Who is the worst? Explain why.
- What qualities could you contribute to a team? What qualities would the other members need to have to create an effective team?