Workshop Opening Activities for Adults

Host rules / Keep this page

2-8 adults / One card or a short shared round / 24 original prompts

These 24 workshop opening prompts combine a light arrival activity, ways to make participation flexible, and a small shared invention. Use one with adults before the main workshop task. No specialist knowledge, presentation, or compulsory pairing is needed.

1. Offer a quiet moment to read one prompt before inviting replies. People may think, sketch on their own paper, listen, or pass.

2. Choose a whole-group invitation or a pair format people have agreed to. Do not assign partners on the spot or require anyone to display a sketch.

3. Close after the chosen prompt and explain the next workshop step. Keep opening answers separate from attendance, assessment, or workshop records.

Always room for a pass

Answer, invent an example, listen, think quietly, or pass without explaining. Keep participation voluntary; do not score, record, or evaluate replies.

Use general or invented examples. Keep private information out of the activity. No account, shared online room, or response upload is part of this page.

Printing & privacy

Use A4 paper. Print single-sided at 100% / Actual size, one PDF page per sheet. Test a page first. Cut only card sheets; keep notes and worksheets whole. Do not collect answers.

Original AI-assisted draft questions. Human English review, group playtesting, physical print quality, and duplex alignment are not yet verified. Planned durations are not measured outcomes.

Print check: measure these bars after printing at 100% / Actual size.

1 inch 25 mm

Workshop Opening Activities for Adults

Facilitator notes / Keep this page

A small host plan.

A shared invitation

One card, optional replies

1. Offer a quiet moment to read one prompt before inviting replies. People may think, sketch on their own paper, listen, or pass.

2. Choose a whole-group invitation or a pair format people have agreed to. Do not assign partners on the spot or require anyone to display a sketch.

An optional pair opening

Adapt or stop at the agreed point

1. Offer pairs to people who want them, with a whole-group or observer alternative. Choose one invention prompt and invite a shared idea without calling on each pair.

2. Close after the chosen prompt and explain the next workshop step. Keep opening answers separate from attendance, assessment, or workshop records.

Host checklist

- Explain how the activity ends before it starts.
- Keep listening, passing, and quiet thinking available.
- Do not collect, rank, photograph, or publish answers.

Workshop Opening Activities for Adults

Card sheet / Cut along the thin outlines

F29-001 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Choose an ordinary object and invent a workshop title inspired by it.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-002 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Describe a made-up room where it would be easy to try an unfinished idea.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-003 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Finish the sentence: A useful starting point can be as small as...

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-004 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Suggest a name for a table where rough ideas are welcome.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-005 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Invent a symbol for an idea that is still taking shape, and describe it aloud.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-006 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Think of a simple object that could stand for curiosity. What did you choose?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-007 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Describe a welcome mat for people arriving with different amounts of experience.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-008 / REV 1

Arrive and notice

Suggest one sentence a facilitator could use before asking for volunteers.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

Workshop Opening Activities for Adults

Card sheet / Cut along the thin outlines

F29-009 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What could a host say to make quiet thinking time feel intentional?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-010 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What would make a pair conversation easy to decline without explaining why?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-011 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What could a workshop offer someone who would rather observe the first activity?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-012 / REV 1

Ways to take part

How could a facilitator invite a second idea without dismissing the first one?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-013 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What wording could make it clear that a rough sketch does not need to be shown?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-014 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What would help someone ask for the instructions to be repeated?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-015 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What could a group do when several people start speaking at once?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-016 / REV 1

Ways to take part

What would make a useful pause before moving from an opening activity to the main task?

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

Workshop Opening Activities for Adults

Card sheet / Cut along the thin outlines

F29-017 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Invent a tiny tool that makes room for an extra idea on a crowded page.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-018 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Describe a workshop where every example has to involve an ordinary paper bag.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-019 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Give a name and one use to a deliberately unfinished invention.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-020 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Suggest two very different uses for an imaginary ring-shaped cushion.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-021 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Create a one-sentence invitation to a workshop for curious garden gates.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-022 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Invent a container for ideas that are useful but do not fit today's task.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-023 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Describe a simple machine that combines two unrelated suggestions.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.

F29-024 / REV 1

A small shared invention

Suggest a closing line for an activity in which nobody had to agree.

Answer, listen, or pass. No explanation needed.