

## **30-Minute "What If" Activity Guide**

### **Activity Title:**

**Preparing for the Unexpected: Building Team Adaptability**

### **Objective:**

Help your team practice problem-solving and collaboration by working through realistic workplace challenges. By the end of this activity, participants will leave with actionable solutions and a stronger sense of preparedness.

### **Introduction (5 Minutes)**

#### **Facilitator's Script:**

“Work is unpredictable. Machines fail, schedules change, and people don't always meet expectations. Today, we're going to practice dealing with these challenges through a fun, fast-paced activity called the ‘What If’ game.

You'll face a real-world challenge and work as a group to come up with creative, practical solutions. This isn't about pointing fingers or finding the ‘perfect’ answer—it's about working together, thinking on your feet, and building confidence to handle the unexpected.”

## **Instructions for the Activity (25 Minutes)**

### **Step 1: Divide the Group (3 Minutes)**

- Split participants into small teams of 3–5 people.
- Provide each group with a scenario card (see **Example Scenarios** below).

### **Step 2: Explain the Task (2 Minutes)**

#### **Facilitator’s Script:**

“Each group will work on a ‘What If’ scenario—a real workplace challenge your team might face.

Your goal is to answer two simple questions:

1. What’s the immediate action we can take to resolve the issue?
2. What can we do to prevent this from happening again in the future?

You’ll have **15 minutes** to brainstorm and come up with solutions. At the end, each group will briefly share their ideas with everyone.”

### **Step 3: Brainstorm Solutions (15 Minutes)**

- Teams work together to:
  1. Identify immediate actions.
  2. Propose preventative measures.

- Encourage creativity and practicality. Walk around to answer questions or guide discussions if a team gets stuck.

#### **Step 4: Share Solutions (5 Minutes)**

- Each team gets **1–2 minutes** to present their solutions to the group.
- After all teams have presented, quickly highlight key takeaways and commend their creative efforts.

#### **Example Scenarios:**

##### **Scenario 1: Equipment Failure**

“What if the refrigerator breaks down during peak hours, and several perishable ingredients are at risk of spoilage?”

##### **Scenario 2: Communication Breakdown**

“What if a critical update from another department doesn’t reach your team in time, delaying service?”

##### **Scenario 3: Unreasonable Guest Demands**

“What if a guest demands a complex, off-menu item during the busiest hour of the day?”

##### **Scenario 4: Supplier Delay**

“What if a supplier misses their delivery deadline, leaving you short on key ingredients for an event?”

## **Scenario 5: Team Disagreement**

“What if a team discussion stalls because everyone has conflicting opinions about how to solve a problem?”

### **Wrap-Up (2 Minutes)**

#### **Facilitator’s Script:**

“Great job, everyone! The purpose of this activity wasn’t just to solve these hypothetical challenges—it was to practice working together and staying adaptable under pressure.

Take these solutions back to your teams, and remember: it’s not about avoiding problems; it’s about being ready to handle them when they come.

Before we close, what’s one takeaway or idea from today’s activity that you can apply to your work right away?”

#### **Tips for the Leader:**

- 1. Keep it Light and Collaborative:** Encourage open discussion without pressuring anyone for “perfect” answers.
- 2. Time Management is Key:** Use a timer to keep the activity on track and ensure everyone has a chance to share.
- 3. Celebrate Participation:** Acknowledge every team’s effort, regardless of the solutions they propose.

This quick, engaging activity builds confidence and prepares your team to tackle real challenges head-on!