PICK A NUMBER

I tuned in to Classic FM recently and heard Richard Cock say: "Today we are listening to music which has something to do with the number three. We'll listen to Beethoven's third symphony, the third movement from ...' and so it went on. And I thought – that is a very clever idea to use in training! So thank you Richard Cock – and to all of you, enjoy this tip.

In preparation:

Pick a magic number that will work for your training material today – any low number between one and five should be fine.

Here are some of the ways you can use that number in your training (we have used the number 3 as an example):

As an opener:

Begin your training day by projecting a large 3 on the screen. Tell your learners that you'll be covering three broad topics or themes and that you will be concentrating on the lucky / memorable / significant number 3 in many of the day's activities.

As an introductions exercise:

- Tell us three interesting things that you do for fun.
- What are the three things that you would most like to learn about today.
- Pick three coins from your wallet and look at the date on each one. Tell us something interesting that happened to you in each of those years. (With thanks to Tass.)

As a reflection, summary or assessment activity at the end of a lesson:

- What were the three most interesting things that you learnt in this lesson?
- Tell us which three of the 7 Golden Rules of ... you found to be most important.
- What is the third step in the ... model?
- Tell us three benefits of the ... product.
- What are the first three actions that you need to take when you ...?
- Tell us three tips that you will share with a colleague from your learning today.
- What three products in our range are suitable for the ... target group?
- What three ingredients would you add to a ... dish? Why?
- Tell us about three actions that you take when solving a ... problem.
- In your groups, draw a mind map which clusters all the learning from this lesson / day under three meaningful headings.
- Use your cell phones to take photos of the three most important flipcharts, materials or people on this workshop. Then tell us why each photo is so valuable to you.

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