

**Activity.**  
**Managing groups: troubleshooting**

There are times when group work does not progress as you would like it to. Note down your suggestions to remedy each of the problems shown below.

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Suggested remedies</b>
Some learners do not participate in the group work.	
Some learners finish their work quickly and then do nothing or become disruptive.	
The group work starts well, but then seems to lose momentum.	
Learners complain that they do not like group work.	
One member of the group dominates and answers all of the questions and tasks	

## Activity answers.

Problem	Suggested remedies
Some learners do not participate in the group work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try and break each group task into separate roles so that each member has a specific task. (In a role-play, for example, you could have separate roles and an observer. Each person could then feed back from their own perspective.)</li> <li>• If the group is discussing a topic, you could ask each person to think about one particular aspect. Match these roles to the individual strengths and needs of the learners.</li> </ul>
Some learners finish their work quickly and then do nothing or become disruptive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the session, prepare some further questions. For each task, think of three or four 'deeper-level' questions, for example, "What are the effects of..." "How might that person feel?", "What could you do about this?", "How does the law affect this?". Use these questions to keep all learners actively engaged.</li> </ul>
The group work starts well, but then seems to lose momentum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan the tasks well in advance, and state the objectives clearly to the learners.</li> <li>• Write a task sheet for each aspect of the group work.</li> <li>• Ensure that you have planned extension work to facilitate deeper learning.</li> <li>• Be prepared to 'mix things up a little', changing the tasks if necessary to ensure motivation.</li> <li>• Give plenty of positive feed back throughout the task.</li> <li>• You could try to break the large task into smaller ones.</li> </ul>
Learners complain that they do not like group work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try some more fun activities, like games and quizzes.</li> <li>• Give a small prize to the winning team.</li> <li>• With games and quizzes you could get the learners to write their own questions or make parts of the activity.</li> </ul>

One member of the group dominates and answers all of the questions and tasks

Ask the learner to take a role that will allow others to speak, but will also support them in extending their learning. They could be the questioner, or they could be the observer within a role-play activity.