



ARKS KEYS TO PARTICIPATION

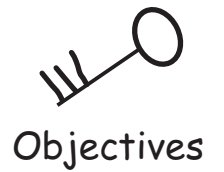
PLANNING AND CHOOSING

MISUNDERSTANDINGS

DESCRIBING A CAT

In this activity you will discover:

- the importance of being clear about what you are wanting to do
- the importance of making your objectives clear to the people you are working with
- how easy it is to be misunderstood



Activity 1

Does the following story sound familiar?

When Mary was chatting to Cathy on the telephone, she told her about the new shoes she bought for the Christmas party. However, when they met at the party, Cathy thought the shoes were nothing like the ones she imagined from their conversation.



Has anything like this ever happened to you? When someone describes something to you, you form a picture in your head of the object they are talking about, but when you actually see the object for yourself, it can be quite different from what you expected it to be.

Write about any experience you have had like this.



Activity
continued


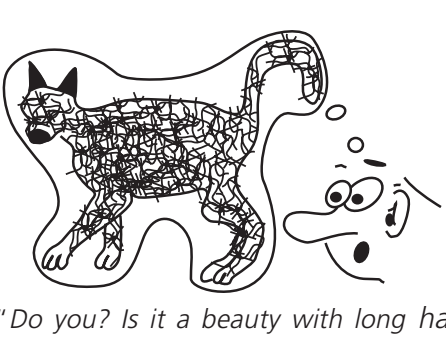
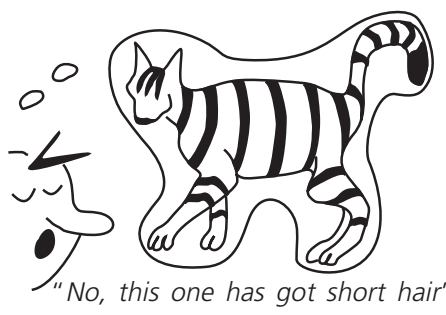


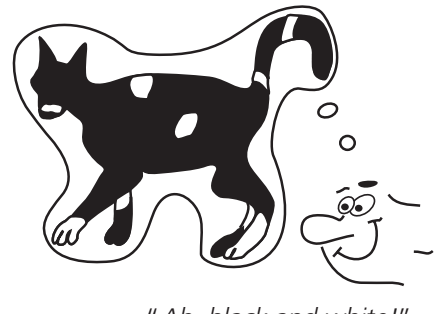

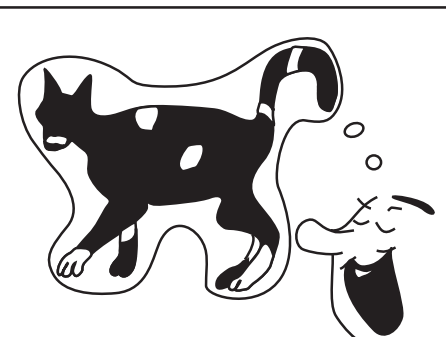
Activity 1 continued

Do you know what caused the confusion?

Activity 2

Look at the following conversation between two men and then answer the questions that follow. They are talking about a cat.



 <p>"We have a new cat"</p>	 <p>"Do you? Is it a beauty with long hair?"</p>
 <p>"No, this one has got short hair"</p>	 <p>"Wow, what colour is your cat?"</p>
 <p>"He's black and white"</p>	 <p>"Ah, black and white!"</p>
 <p>"He's a beauty?"</p>	 <p>"Yes, you have a beautiful cat!"</p>



Activity
continued

Activity 2 continued

What happens during their conversation? Are they describing the same cat?

Maybe if the second man had asked more questions the cats would have looked similar. What questions should he have asked to get two identical cats? Write your ideas here:

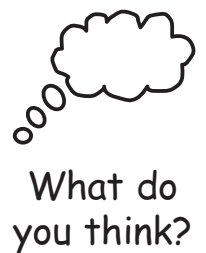
Activity 3

Life is not only about new shoes and cats. Can you think of other examples which could have important consequences if such a confusion occurred? Think of conversations with your colleagues, or boss at work, family members and neighbours.

What was the outcome of this confusion: fights, misunderstandings, disappointments?

Consider how important it is to be very clear when you are describing what you are doing, or when you are explaining your objectives?

What can you do to prevent misunderstandings from happening? Look at your examples and say what could have been done differently.





Activity 4

Try to recognise some cat-stories in your own life this week and write them down below. Try to find one in each of the three areas of your life given in the table.

at home

at work or college

community/club/pub