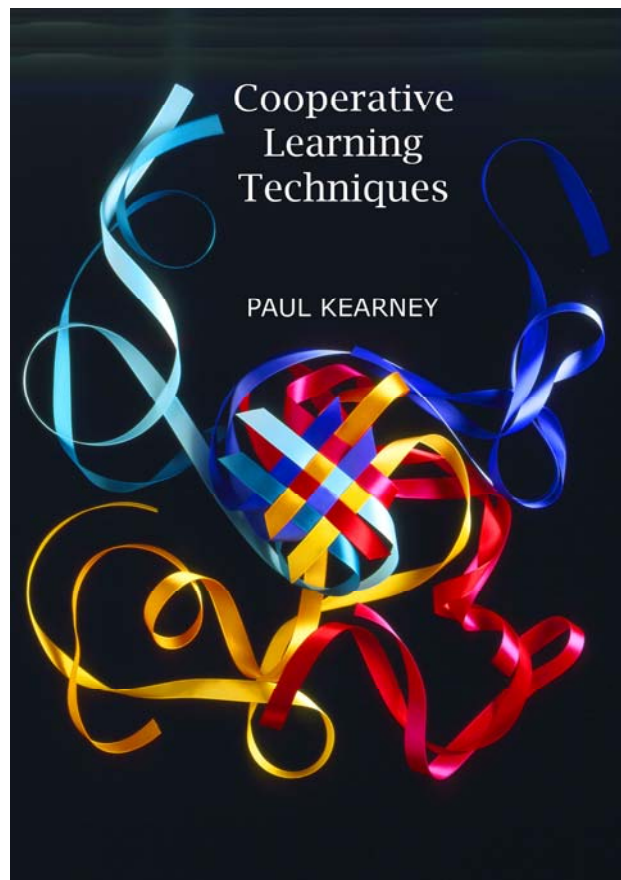


Sample

# Cooperative learning techniques



## Team Chart

## Three-step-interview

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# Team Chart

## Three-step-interview

The technique can be used at any time and is best used to explore issues and opinions in detail. The sample below relates to identifying the conditions that make for good team work.

1. Firstly set the overall task: ***Produce a chart of six rules that will make our team work better than other teams.***
2. Introduce the interview question: *Tell me what makes you happy when you work with a group.*
3. Individually, participants are to jot down three or four words that relate to their answer.
4. Place participants in pairs. It's a good idea to have them facing one another, rather than side by side.
5. In turns they interview one another, focussing on the questions above. There is to be NO discussion during interviews. Interviewers can only ask questions. They MUST record responses. They CANNOT comment.
6. Following the interviews, pairs are coupled, forming groups of four. Each person reports on their partner's behalf, i.e. the person they interviewed. This process continues until all four members' accounts are relayed. Participants CANNOT interrupt or discuss reports; it is only reporting at this stage.
7. The groups discuss the incident/situation.

They conclude the exercise by producing a chart of six rules that will make their team work better than other teams.

## Notes

The three-step-interview works in clear stages:

- 1 gathering information
- 2 sharing information
- 3 using information

Requiring individuals to think first is important because it prepares the learner for the exercise. In fact, getting individuals to think first is a good idea with all situations where participants are learning together.

Sticking closely to the stages maximises the use of information. Restricting discussion at the first two stages is very difficult but **extremely important**.

Providing students with interview style questions like the samples below helps the process:

- Can you tell me more about that?
- Why do you say?
- How do you feel about that?

It is worth noting that when a person's interview is relayed by their partners, they listen very closely to make sure their partner got it right. The first two stages really make people focus on the information.

Drawing a diagram helps people to understand the process.

Cooperating with peers in the classroom is not the only form of cooperative learning.

Learning in a cooperative is a core element of an enterprising way to learn.

Cooperative learning techniques rest on a number of principles, including those below:

- The task should always be clear and set at the outset.
- The individuals should think first e.g. jot down one idea. This not only creates an expectation that the individual will contribute but it also signals to others that this person has a 'right' to contribute.
- The techniques set up situations where it is hard to succeed, unless all individuals contribute. The techniques involve interdependence.
- The role/task of students should be clear, creating individual responsibility

**Cooperative learning techniques do not leave learning in teams to chance or running the risk of 'pooling ignorance'.**