

## Categories List

Collected and Compiled by Karl Rohnke

I originally began using “Categories” after having read about the effectiveness of spontaneous assigned grouping in the book *Playfair* by Goodman and Weinstein, (now out of print I believe). Asking people to divide into the various categories listed below not only allows choosing up sides without reverting to the disastrous sociogram technique of allowing best athletes or best friends to do the choosing, but also encourages a natural change of position within an established group. It’s not a particular category that’s significant, it’s the movement of people, the conversations initiated, the odd ball things revealed, and the commitment to say something about yourself. **Categories** is a precursor to trust and is invariably well received by participants.

The list immediately below is a collection of **Categories** gleaned from workshops I’ve conducted over the years. Feel free to add & subtract from the list...make it work for you.

**All Category responses should involve Answer by Choice.**

- **When you fold your arms, is your right arm or left arm on top?**
- **When you fold your hands, is your right or left thumb on top?**
- **Which leg goes in your pants-slacks-shorts first?**
- **Are you wearing jewelry or not?** (Wedding bands do not count as jewelry.)
- **Are you wearing or carrying a timepiece?** (Smartphone do not count as timepieces)
- **When you clap, which hand is the hitting hand and which hand is the “cup” hand?**
- **Which foot do you tap to music?**
- **Use your finger to draw an imaginary circle. \*Did you create the circle\* clk (clockwise) or \*cclk (counterclockwise)?**
- **Again, using that same finger, draw the profile (side view) of a German shepherd dog’s head. As you look at your “drawing”, is the dog facing to your left or right?**
- **With which eye do you wink? Not blink – WINK!**
- **Think of performing a running jump over a ditch. Off which leg do you jump?**
- **If you share a bed with someone...standing at the foot of the bed looking toward the pillow end, which side of the bed do you sleep on?**
- **If you sleep alone, standing as above do you enter the bed from the right or left?**
- **About to climb a ladder? Which foot steps on the bottom rung?**
- **When you turn around, which way do you turn, \*elk or cclk?**
- **After a store purchase do you count your change...or not?**
- **Which way do you spin (rotate) a bread bag before applying a twisty?**
- **When you apply a twisty, which way do you twist the twisty?**
- **When you lick melting ice cream from a cone, which way do you rotate the cone?**
- **Do you prefer toilet paper rolling off the bottom or the top of the roll?**
- **Are you a toilet paper scruncher or folder? Caveat-know your audience!**
- **Do you pronounce *tomato* with a long or short A? Same with the words *aunt* or *vase*?**
- **When you insert letters into a P.O. mailbox slot do you check to see if they drop?**
- **Do you pick up a found penny, or leave it there? Nickel? Dime?**
- **When you begin eating a raw carrot to you first bite the thick or thin end?**
- **Do you have a tattoo or not? Display not required**
- **Do you shower primarily in the AM or PM? Or both?**
- **When you cross your legs at the ankle, which leg ends up on top?**
- **When you cross your legs at the knee, which leg rests on top?**

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- Considering that most people wear a seat belt while driving, do you “click” the belt before or after you accelerate the vehicle?
- When you hand-wash dishes, do you rinse off the soapy water, or just let the dishes drain?
- When you reach down to pick up a gold ball from the hole, which hand does the plucking?
- Look at your elbow. Which elbow did you look at, right or left?
- When counting push ups, do you begin in the arms extended or arms bent position?
- After you park your car and have taken a few steps toward your destination, do you just keep going or glance back at the car?
- When you visit Wal-Mart, do you return the official greeter’s salutation or just continue on to home furnishings without responding?
- When you print do you use all CAPITAL LETTERS, or do you use a combination of UPPER and lower case letters?
- When you hand write a letter do you print or use cursive?
- In the majority do you drink tea or coffee? Add an “or other” category.
- When eating with fork does the utensil deliver food to your mouth with your left or right hand?

### Multi-Groups ...beyond 50/50

- Which fingers do you hold up to indicate the number three? Anticipate 3 – 4 groups.
- Get into groups as to whether you can: (1) fold (roll) your tongue, (2) touch the tip of your tongue to the tip of your nose, (3) turn your tongue upside down (rare).
- What color underwear do you have on right now? Arrange yourselves into color groups.
- What about a *Commando or Tarzan* category? Do not check for accuracy. Again ...know your audience!
- How many full or half siblings are there in your family including yourself?
- Have someone tell you the color of your eyes, then get into groups of similar color.
- What’s your shoe size? Announce your size and get into groups.
- Get into groups as to the month you were born. Do the same for your astrological sign. Don’t know your sign? Ask, someone always knows.
- What is your blood type and RH factor? (You should know!)

\*clk –cclk Be aware that many digitally oriented young people are not familiar with term clockwise (clk) and counter clockwise (cclk).