

Activity: What Kind of Employee Are You?

Materials Needed: 3 glasses, 2 aspirin tablets, 2 Bromo Seltzer tablets, 2 Alka Seltzer tablets, a towel for cleanup

Directions: Fill three glasses about three-quarters full of water and place them on a table in view of all participants. Place two aspirin in the first glass. Suggest that the lack of any overt response is analogous to a “do-nothing”, nonproductive employee.

Place two Bromo Seltzer tablets in the second glass. Note that this type of employee has a great burst of initial enthusiasm, but quickly loses it.

Place two Alka Seltzer tablets in the third glass. Note that this type of employee produces a relatively strong but stable output (and hence is the most desirable).

Follow-Up  
Discussion:

Explain that there are three types of employees in the workforce today. The first type **makes** things happen; the second type **watches** what happens; and the third type **wonders** what happened! This story is especially effective if illustrated with Retrophane transparency film, in which the first key word (makes) can be written on the overhead with permanent ink, while the second and third key words (watches and wonders) should be written with their disappearing-ink pen. The point can then be vividly demonstrated that only those who **make** things happen will survive over the long term and be the most productive employees.

Time Required:  
5 Minutes