

# Last word - First word

Object is to use the last word of the previous speaker as the first word of the next speaker's dialog. Last word - First word can be used as alternate to table topic or as an extra activity. It is an easy addition when a speaker slot is open.

## Background:

Often in conversation, one starts to formulate their response before the other person is done speaking. When you do this, it takes away from your listening. This game can be used for improving your listening and improvisation skills.

## Participants:

- Facilitator – Introduces the game and provides the starting line for the story.
- Storytellers – 2 or 3 per story. Build an impromptu story using the start provided by the **facilitator**.

## The Game:

1. The **facilitator** may pick 2 or 3 people to be **storytellers** or may choose a round robin format where everyone participates as a **storyteller**. The storytellers build a story based on an opening line the **facilitator** provides.
2. Each **storyteller** tries to add to the established story line. The **storyteller** can add twists and turns but it should be one continuous story.
3. The **facilitator** starts the story by giving the first line. The first **storyteller** continues the story. The **storyteller's first word** needs to be the last word spoken by the **facilitator**.
4. The **storytellers** take turns adding a short piece to the story. Each piece of the story is generally less than 1 minute. It could be as short as 1 or 2 sentences.
5. Each **storyteller's first word** needs to be the last word of the previous **storyteller**. The **storyteller** must say the previous last word, but it doesn't need to start a sentence.
6. The speaking **storyteller** adds a short piece to the story and then hands it off to the next **storyteller**. The process continues to the completion of the story.
7. All of the **storytellers** watch the timer so they know when to conclude the story.

## Time Allotment:

The time allotment can be adjusted to meet the available time.

	2 – 3 Min	3 – 5 Min	4 – 6 Min	5 – 7 Min	6 – 8 Min
Green	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00	6:00
Yellow	2:30	4:00	5:00	6:00	7:00
Red	3:00	5:00	6:00	7:00	8:00

## Evaluation:

The evaluator will be looking to see if the last word was used as the first word along with the typical performance measures evaluated in Table Topics.

**Let the Games begin!**