

## Our Festive Feast

Featuring Tantalizing Holiday Treats  
from our Accelerated Learning Smorgasbord



Spice up Your Corporate Events, Meetings & Training for the Festive Season

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## Our Festive Feast



### Deck the Halls: Christmas Event Decor and Peripherals

Every year from 1997 - 2012, we've added special festive dishes to our [Accelerated Learning Smorgasbord](#) to inspire you to add punch and pizzazz to training sessions and corporate events during the festive season. We took a break as our content was so well received that our President, Anne Thornley-Brown, has been busy blogging for major portals. We're happy to be back this year with fresh new ideas and some of our old favourites.

We've done your brainstorming for you. So, help yourself. Our Festive Feast is overflowing with energizers, decor, visuals, and games. Stop by whenever you need inspiration or you're stuck for ideas to "spice up" your training or corporate events.

**Access ALL Videos Online:** <http://www.thetrainingoasis.com/festive.html>

### [Creating the Right Ambiance for Accelerated Learning](#)

The right ambiance goes a long way to creating the right ambiance for learning.

During the festive season, decor is available in abundance.

So go ahead and deck the halls. Transform meeting rooms and event venues from boring to brilliant.

You may be thinking, "I don't have a lot of set-up time to create a festive feel in your training room or for a Christmas event." Many have faced that challenge but it doesn't have to stop you.

If you like, you can provide a basic kit for each team and, with your invitation, ask each participant to bring a decoration or ornament. Divide your group into teams, give each team a bag or box of decorations and 15 minutes to decorate a part of the room. (You can also use this activity for any winter event or to decorate the breakout rooms for any winter team building session or retreat as we have done here.)

If your budget is tight, divide the group into teams in advance. Appoint a leader for each

team. Ask the team members to consult with each other, come up with a Christmas theme, share the responsibility of bringing decorations to bring that theme to life. Let them know there will be prizes.

Play some festive music. Give the winning team their prizes in neatly wrapped Christmas paper. Prizes can often be donated by suppliers or arts organizations.



[Video: Animated Mini Carousel](#)

- Miniature Carousels and Other Animations
- Festive Table Cloths and Napkins
- Festive Glasses to hold pens, markers, etc.
- Snow Globes
- Miniature Villages
- Winter Clothing (Scarves, gloves)
- Candles
- Bells
- Wreaths
- Holly
- Ivy
- Tinsel
- Snow Flakes
- Snow Men & Ladies
- Mistletoe
- Ribbons
- Christmas Cards for Name Tags
- Wrapped Packages
- Toys
- Popcorn Chains
- Sleighs
- Ice Skates
- Santa's Sack

### Icebreakers for Accelerated Learning



[Video: Virtual Santa](#)

### Sizzling Session Starters

Session starters involve everything from what participants experience when they first arrive to the steps facilitators and event planners take to encourage them to interact with each other.

Surprise participants upon arrival with 3D projection mapping to add rejuvenate even the most dreary building exteriors. On a budget? Let friendly animations like **Virtual Santa** work their magic. They are created with DVDs and projectors.

Add a festive touch to the process of finding partners for your first exercise with these 3 session starters.

## Silly Festive Trivia

1. How many reindeer does Santa have?
2. From what fabric was Frosty the Snowman's hat made?
3. Which Scottish poet wrote the words to Auld Lang Syne?
4. How many ghosts visited Scrooge on Christmas Eve?
5. If you re-arrange the letters in Santa's name, what rather ominous figure do you get?
6. What is the name of the horse in Jingle Bells?

## Answers

1. Eleven. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolph, Olive and Howe....."Olive the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names....and Howe the reindeer loved him and he shouted out with glee."
2. Silk.
3. Robbie Burns.
4. Four - The ghosts of Christmas past, present and yet to come, and Jacob Marley.
5. Satan.
6. Bobtail - "Bells on Bobtail ring...making spirits bright".

## Card Exchange



### Preparation

It is important to be sensitive to multi-cultural issues and offer participants the option of using Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza cards or gift for this icebreaker.

#### Step 1

- Prepare a card for each participant.
- Inside each card, write the name of one of the participants.
- Or
- Ask each participant to bring a card to the session and sign it.
- Cards should be placed in envelopes but not sealed.

#### Step 2

- Just before the exercise, label the envelopes with the names of the participants who have arrived and seal the envelopes.

#### Step 3

- Distribute cards to half of the participants. Give participants an opportunity to open their cards and find their partners by locating the name of the person who signed their card.

#### Step 4

- For round 2 of the exercise, change partners by distributing the remaining cards and repeating step3.

## The Merry Mixer



### Preparation:

- Obtain small gift tags (or blank red, green and white index cards).
- Select the name of a Christmas or Winter movie for each team or group you want to form (examples: Heidi, Miracle on 34th Street, It's A Wonderful Life).
- On separate cards, write the name of the movie, name of the lead actor and actress, the name of a song from the movie. Add other categories if there are more than 4 members for each group you want to form.

### Instructions:

- Distribute the cards.
- Give participants an opportunity to find the members of their groups (or teams) by locating other participants who have elements from the same movie that is represented by the item on their cards.
- Give prizes such as candy canes or Christmas chocolates to the first team to locate all of its members.

## Gift Exchange



### Preparation:

#### Step 1

- Purchase a small gift for each participant (under \$2.00). Wrap each gift and label it. Put a participant's name in the "From" section of each label.

or

- Ask participants to purchase, wrap and label a small gift. They should write their name in the "From" section of the gift label.

#### Step 2

- Just before you do the exercise, label the "To" sections of each gift label.

### Instructions:

#### Step 3

- Distribute half of the gifts.

#### Step 4

- Participants find their partners by checking the "From" section of their gift labels

#### Step 5

- For round 2 of the exercise, change partners by distributing the remaining gifts and repeating step 4.

## Energizers for Break Time



### The Energizers

- Vintage toys in gift bags
- Toys from around the world in gift bags
- Christmas themed virtual reality
- Noise Makers
- Horns (New Year's)
- Christmas Crackers
- Piñatas
- Sparklers
- Christmas Trivia
- Tree trimming
- Gingerbread House Decorating
- Christmas Shoe Boxes (Charity)
- Christmas Bingo
- Christmas Charades
- Christmas "Scene-it"
- Baking and decorating cookies
- Sleigh Rides
- Snow shoeing



[Video: Virtual Reality \(Samsung VR\)](#)

- GoPro Sleigh Rides
- GoPro Videos with Winter Sports
- Clips from Christmas movies (observe copyright)
- Vacation videos from winter destinations
- Videos with winter scenery

## Musical Christmas Moments

### Music for Accelerated Learning

- Christmas Virtual Fireplace
- Selections from The Nutcracker Suite
- The Christmas Song  
(Chestnuts Roasting On an Open Fire)
- Walking In the Winter Wonderland
- Felice Navidad
- The Twelve Days of Christmas
- Boney M
- Christmas Reggae or Latin American
- Beach Boys – Little Saint Nick



[Video: Virtual Christmas Fireplace](#)

## Christmas Themed Break Activities

### Accelerated Learning Breaks

- Gingerbread House Decorating
- Cookie or Cake Decorating
- Christmas Pinata
- Mini Christmas Baking Challenge
- Dance Breaks (Reggae, Parang, Latin American Christmas Music, Beach Boys – Little Saint Nick)
- Sleigh Rides
- Snow Shoeing

## Refreshments



### A Cup of Coffee...a Sip of Tea

Add seasonal fare from around the world to your "spice up" a traditional holiday menu.

Whether it's sorrel from Jamaica or a yule log from Quebec, your guests will appreciate the variety and change of pace.

### **Multicultural Pot Luck**

With work teams becoming more multi-cultural, participants will appreciate this fresh spin on traditional holiday fare.

If your budget is limited, for a lunch they'll never forget, ask participants to bring a festive appetizer, main course, drink, or dessert that represents their cultural heritage.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cocktail Patties (Jamaica) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Fruit Cake/Black Cake (Jamaica) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel (Jamaica)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon Gravlax (Denmark)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Buche de Noel (Quebec)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolate Tea/Hot Chocolate (Jamaica) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourteire (Quebec)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosca de Reyes (Mexico/Spain)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ting (Jamaica)                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fondue (Switzerland)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortbread (England)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cola de Mono (Chile)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raclette (Switzerland)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacher Torte (Austria)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wassail (UK)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goose (England)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Kurisumasu Keiki (Japan)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulled Wine (UK)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted Lamb (Italy)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pavlova (Australia)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Nog (Canada/USA)                  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Coquito (Puerto Rico)                 |

## Other Ideas



- Egg Nog
- Fruit
- Punch
- Hot Cider
- Turkey
- Hors
- D'oeuvres
- Nuts (Check for Allergies First)
- Candy Canes
- Popcorn
- Cake Decorated
- Cup Cakes Decorated
- Cookies Decorated
- Ginger Bread Men & Ladies
- Gingerbread House
- Shortbread Cookies
- Yule Log
- Gumballs or Jelly Beans (Red & Green)
- Fruit

## Rave Reviews: Re-capping and Reviewing without Regurgitating

### Preparation:

- Obtain a small gift and assemble boxes of various sizes and several types of wrapping paper.
- Place a small gift in a small box and wrap it.
- Stick a label on the box and write a question related to course content on the label.
- Wrap the box a few more times and always put a label with a course-related question on each layer of wrapping paper.
- Put the small box (wrapped) inside a medium-sized and wrap it several times. Put a label on each layer of paper with a course-related question.
- Repeat this process many times until you have one question per participant and the gift has been placed inside several boxes.

### Action:

1. Ask participants to sit in a circle.
2. Play festive music such as one of the selections from The Nutcracker Suite or another seasonal piece
3. Participants pass the box around until you pause the music.
4. When the music pauses, the participant who has the box reads the question on the box and tries to answer it.
  - If he or she answers the question correctly, that participant removes the first layer of wrapping paper.
  - If the answer is incorrect, the question becomes a toss-up question. Any participant who successfully answers the question will remove the first layer of wrapping paper
5. Start the music again and repeat steps 3-4 until some lucky participant unwraps the last box and get to take the gift home.

## The Music Box



## About Anne Thornley-Brown



President,  
The Training Oasis, Inc.

**Training Facilitator/OD Consultant**  
**Education:** MBA, MSW

**Experience:** 20+ Years  
**Global Reach:** Companies from 9 countries

Anne Thornley-Brown, founder and President of Executive Oasis International. Anne has worked with clients in a variety of industries including telecommunications, banking, pharma, the airline industry, transportation, and the entertainment industry.

Anne has facilitated training and workshops from 18 countries including North America (Canada, USA), The Caribbean (Jamaica, Dominica, Barbados), The Middle East (Dubai, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain), Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India), Africa (South Africa, Egypt, Sudan).

Anne's clients have included Holt Renfrew, Bell Mobility, Telus Mobility, Rogers Communications, Bell Mobility, Nakheel/Dubai World, Bidvest (South Africa), Roche, Scalar Decisions, Manulife Financial, Ingram Micro, OCBC Bank – Malaysia, EPICPCS - USA, Sittercity, Xerox, IBM, and IKEA.

During 18 tours of Asia, Anne has delivered seminars to over 2000 executives and managers In Asia, participants from a variety of organizations including Petronas, Samsung, Malaysian Airlines, Digi, Mobil/Exxon, Thai Airlines, Proton and Perodua, Bangkok Airways, and Dell Computers have attended her public workshops.

Anne is also a popular blogger. She has written for Plan Your Meetings by MPI, The Huffington Post, Event Manager Blog, Cvent Blog, EventMobi Blog, and Elite Meetings.

## About The Training Oasis



With major shifts in the global geo-political landscape, the economy and business climate have entered a time of turbulence and uncertainty. As businesses become increasingly complex, connectivity is decreasing, and silos are becoming more entrenched. Effective cross-functional teamwork is a key driver of corporate success. In the midst of turbulence, even organizations with strong performance need to be alert, on top of their game, agile, and proactive enough to seize opportunities. Organizations need to spot and respond effectively to the trends that will have an impact on their business.

Since 1996, The Training Oasis, Inc., a Toronto training and OD consulting firm, has helped rapidly changing organization:

- Foster innovation.
- Strengthen team cohesion.
- Re-shape their corporate culture.
- Inspire teams that are tired or discouraged.
- Identify and tap into growing markets.
- Break down silos and improve cross-functional teamwork
- Design & execute innovative strategies to stay ahead of the competition.



## We'll Bring our Oasis to You



## Why an Oasis

**We have served clients from ocountries** including Canada, USA, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates (Dubai). Clients have included Bell Mobility, Caribbean Development Bank, Sidra Capital (Saudi Arabian), TELUS Mobility, Ingram Micro, IBM, OCBC Bank (Malaysia), Penang Port (Malaysia).

### [Partial Client List](#)

**We specialize in the design and facilitation of training, workshops, meetings, and brainstorming services.**

**From time immemorial, weary travellers have wandered through the desert in search of the next oasis to refuel, re-chart their course, and find the strength to continue their journey.**

In the same spirit, Executive Oasis International creates a safe haven for corporate teams to pause, refuel, and pick up tools and strategies to help them on their journey to success.



**Oasis = A place of calm and growth in the midst of turbulence.**

Executive Oasis International, our sister company, uses accelerated learning to design executive retreats and team building.

<http://www.executiveoasis.com>

## More About Accelerated Learning

You can obtain more information about accelerated learning at the following internet sites:

### For Corporations

- Spice of the Month Accelerated Learning Archives  
<http://www.thetrainingoasis.com/ezine.html>
- The Accelerated Learning Smorgasbord  
<http://www.thetrainingoasis.com/acceleratedlearningsmorgasbord.html>

### For Educators

- Accelerated Learning by Colin Rose  
<http://www.acceleratedlearning.com>
- Quantum Learning by Bobbi DePorter  
<http://www.qln.com>