



# Odyssey of the Mind<sup>®</sup>

---

## 2015 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

### Verbal Spontaneous Problem: I'm Busy!

A. *When the team members enter the room, tell them, "This is a verbal problem that includes some writing. The five team members who will compete please step over to the competition area (indicate area). The others must sit quietly in these seats (indicate seats) and watch or leave the room. They cannot participate in any way."*

B. **JUDGE READS TO TEAMS:** (Do not read material in parentheses.)

- (1) You have 2 minutes to think and write responses and 5 minutes to respond. You may ask the judges questions; however, time will continue. You are allowed to talk to each other during think time.
- (2) During think time you are allowed to brainstorm ideas and write them down. You are allowed to refer to the list of responses that you created when giving responses. You are not allowed to share your list.
- (3) **Each of you has 5 cards marked with different scoring values that you will use when you respond** (*show a sample card with the two values*). **You will take turns in order. Before you give a response, you will place the card you've chosen in the container.** (*point to container*)
- (4) **You should try and use your best five responses. If you believe your response is very creative, you should choose a card with the higher values** (*hold up higher value card*). **If you think your response is less creative, you should choose a card with lower values** (*hold up lower value card*). **For example, if you use this card** (*show 4,8 card*) **the judge will give you 4 points if your response is common, and 8 points if it is creative. Each card may only be used once.**
- (5) Speak loudly and clearly. Once time begins, it will not be stopped.
- (6) You should not repeat a response that has already been given, and you are not allowed to skip your turn. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
- (7) You will be finished when response time ends or when you have used all of your cards.
- (8) **A friend is coming over, but you don't want to see this person. Your problem is to make up excuses for why they shouldn't come over.** For example you might say, "I'm sick"; or "I'm taking my dog out to dinner."

*(After reading the entire problem aloud, repeat the items in boldface. Begin by saying, "I repeat. ")*

### **C. FOR JUDGES ONLY:**

1. Judges should discuss and practice solving the problem before the first team competes. Make any necessary decisions and or notes. All decisions must be applied uniformly to all teams.
2. Practice reading the problem out loud before the first team competes. When reading to the teams, illustrate the problem by indicating items and portraying actions.
3. Place two copies of the Team's Copy of the problem in full view of all team members before you read the problem to them. They may use them as a reference during the competition.
4. Give each team member a set of five cards, each one marked with one of the following values: 5 & 10, 4 & 8, 3 & 6, 2 & 4, 1 & 2. Make an extra set to show as examples when reading the problem.
5. Place a container within reach of all team members. Make sure it has an opening large enough and that it can hold all 25 cards.
6. Be sure to score the common/creative points based on the card chosen by the team member. Team members can use each card only once. Make sure team members place a card in the container before responding.
7. Also give each team member a piece of paper and a pencil to use during think time. If you see a team member not writing any ideas down, remind them that it could be helpful during response time.
8. If there are fewer than five team members, give only the five cards to each member. The other cards are not used. Be sure to indicate this on the scoresheet, i.e., "only 4 team members." (This will also change the total possible responses.)
9. Be sure to give exactly 2 minutes to think and 5 minutes to respond. Timing is critical. Team members responding as time ends may finish and be scored.

#### **10. Examples of Common Responses:**

*Typical reasons for being busy/unavailable:* "I have homework to do"; "I have to clean my room"; "My Mom won't let me"; "I'm grounded"; "I'm sick"; "I'm busy"; "I won't be home"; "I have a doctor's appointment"; "I have chores to do"; "I have other plans"; etc.

#### **11. Examples of Creative Responses:**

*Unusual/humorous responses:* "I'm taking my dog out to dinner"; "I just found out I'm allergic to most people"; "There's a bear outside my door so come at your own risk"; "My Dad's bowling team is here celebrating so feel free if you want to deal with a bunch of loud old men"; "There's a flood in my basement and I know you can't swim"; "I'm getting my tooth pulled so I won't be such great company"; "You can come over but you'll have to help me clean the house all night"; "My street is being blocked by an elephant that escaped from the zoo."

**NOTE:** If a team member gives a response very similar to a previous one, count it as common. Do not ask team members to explain their answer, or to give a different response. You should ask a team member to repeat a response only if you did not hear it. Time continues.