

Escape Room Essentials

Listen to the Mission Brief

Many escape room designers have gone to great lengths to create a story to help you become immersed in the whole escape room experience. The Mission Brief is a good way of setting the scene and heightening your anticipation for the challenge ahead. Many rooms require a specific task to be completed or the recovery of an object in order to be successful. This information is normally explained in the brief which may also contain some helpful clues.



Search, Search and Search Again

When first entering the escape room it is not always clear where to start. Searching the entire area will help determine what needs to be solved or opened. Searching also identifies objects that could be part of a puzzle or used to assist in some way.

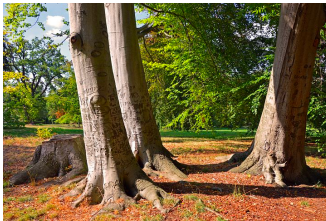


(Have you ever lost your car keys and in desperation looked in the most bizarre places? Then found yourself looking in the same places again just in case.)

Split your team to search as thoroughly and quickly as possible. Do not be afraid to re-check areas as you may look at it from a different angle the second time around. One technique that you could adopt is for part of the team to search in a clockwise direction and the other in an anticlockwise direction. This way both parts of the team search the whole room from different perspectives. It is also a good technique to call out to others what you think is relevant to help activate the thought process.

Talk Out Loud

Many clues can be a play on words that have more than one meaning, such as TRUNK.



Alternatively the words could be spelt different but sound the same like RED and READ.

By reading a clue out loud you are checking the spelling whilst others are checking the phonetics. This allows everyone to apply their own and possibly different interpretation of the clue. If you become stuck then swap over so that someone else reads the clue out loud.

Talking out loud is also advised when trying to solve a puzzle. Explaining your thought process allows others to follow along or provide an alternative way of looking at it.

Communication

With modern phone systems we have become accustomed to being able to talk at the same time.



Consider communication as a 2 way process which involves both talking and listening as separate parts. When using walkie-talkies you need to pass control of the conversation so that only one person talks whilst the others listen. This might be a skill that is worth considering for larger teams.

Know What's Required

The purpose of the initial search is to determine what needs to be opened and in what order. The next stage is to be very specific as to what is required to open each lock. This helps you to remain focused.



If a box is locked with a padlock, then it would be beneficial to know that the padlock has five dials with letters on each dial. The code could be 5 random letters or possibly a logical word. Knowing that a 5 letter code is required can help determine which clues or objects are most likely to give the answer.

Explore the lock and its immediate area as there could be something that links to the relevant clues. For example, a lock with a \$ symbol next to it could suggest that the clues relate to money.

Enjoyment

Whilst these tips can help improve your success rate, remember that you can still have an enjoyable experience by solving as many puzzles as possible before time runs out.

Happy Escaping !



Now Test These Skills