Fun ways to form pairs / groups

Creating pairs in a fun and engaging way can add an element of excitement to group activities. Here are some fun methods to form pairs:

- **Puzzle Pieces**:

Provide each participant with a puzzle piece when they enter the room. The pieces should be part of a larger puzzle. The goal is for participants to find the person with the matching piece to form a pair . Once the puzzle is complete, all group are formed. (The number of pieces forms the same number of people into a group)

- **Playing Card Match**:

Assign each person a playing card as they enter, ensuring there are as many of each card as we need in a group. Participants must find the person with the same card suit or number to form a pair / group. This method adds an element of surprise as they discover their partner.

- **Animal Sounds**:

Assign each participant an animal name as they enter the room. The list should include a variety of animals. Participants must make the sound (using any body parts eg. hands) of their assigned animal and find their matching pair / group by sound alone. This can be a hilarious and memorable way to form pairs / groups. Can be played with elements of nature: wind, rain, thunder, breaking ice, volcano erupt...

- **Music Shuffle**:

When participants enter, have music playing. Instruct them to walk around the room and, when the music stops, they must find a partner with whom to form a pair. You can make it even more fun by playing different styles of music each time the music stops.

- **Lucky Charms Draw**:

Place a selection of small items (e.g., lucky charms, small toys, or symbols) in a bag. Each participant draws an item from the bag and must find the person with the same item to create a pair. This method can lead to interesting conversations about the significance of the items.

These creative methods not only form pairs / groups, but also inject an element of playfulness and excitement into group activities. If you have less time, these can even be used as mini-icebreakers.