

The Pfeiffer Book of Successful Team-Building  
Tools, Edited by Elaine Biech, © 2001,  
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# What is Teamwork?

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What comes to mind when you hear the word “teamwork”? Most likely an assortment of thoughts comes to mind, including positive ones such as working together, achieving common goals, and having fun. On the other hand, negative thoughts may come to mind, too, such as personality conflicts, difficult communication, and time-consuming meetings.

Throughout your life you have been a member of many teams: athletic teams such as baseball or tennis; volunteer teams such as fund raising or fire fighting; school teams such as debate or chorus; social teams such as card clubs; or civic teams such as city-wide support groups. You are a member of a family—and that is a team also. Plus, you are on a variety of teams at work. Some of these groups of people are true teams. But are they all?

## WHAT IS A TEAM?

A team is a group of people who are mutually dependent on one another to achieve a common goal. Some definitions of a team require that the group must also be functioning well together. Although “functioning well” is not a part of our definition, it is definitely a part of our purpose as trainers and consultants. This book of team-building tools will assist you to improve how well any team functions.

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