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# How to Build Better Business Collaboration in 3 Easy Steps

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**T**hink about your last team meeting. Did it involve a person standing in front of the room presenting concepts to the entire group? Were you unable to contribute to the conversation? If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. A majority of U.S. employees are not engaged in the workplace. **According to a 2014 Gallup poll, only 31.5% of workers were engaged in their jobs.** Companies have taken note and are seeking a more collaborative approach with employees.

Collaboration is nothing new. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines it as the ability "to work with another person or group in order to achieve or do something." In other words: teamwork. In the business world, collaboration not only equals a happier workforce, it represents an educated one. This is because it naturally inspires a sense of belonging within an organization, meaning that employees feel almost part of a family. Collaboration allows workers to share best practices and better understand company objectives, guidelines and resources.

The key to success is having employees well-trained and current in today's versatile business environment. That involves incorporating interactive training practices to engage and spark a worker's interest in learning new skills. The company, meanwhile, has a better grasp on what initiatives are understood and how they can improve their teaching model. Apart from being cost-effective, active learning is a means for a company to show its employees they are worth investing in.

**When employees are involved, the chances they retain the information presented to them is at its highest.**

## 3 Strategies for a More Collaborative Workplace

### Communicate

Share ideas with anyone who will listen. When you challenge yourself to communicate a thought, it forces you to clarify your thinking in order for another person to understand. By opening up an idea for critique, you'll receive additional ideas from the person whom you shared it with.

### Acknowledge

It's important to give credit when your collaborator contributes a good idea, hard work or even good constructive criticism. Collaboration works best when team members feel appreciated and valued. Each participant is part of the team for a reason as they are competent in their specialty.

### Visualize

Illustrate where you want your idea to go. This can be accomplished by using visuals to communicate and clarify your idea at the most simplistic level. Visuals are a great facilitator to aid strategic thinking and planning, and six times more effective than words alone.