BOW-TO BOOKS

Training That Works: A Guide to On-the-Job Training

Charles M. Cadwell

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Training That Works A Guide to On-the-Job Training

Charles M. Cadwell

Coastal Training Technologies Corp.

500 Studio Drive Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

Training That Works! A Guide to On-the-Job Training

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Introduction

On-the-job training is used more frequently than any other training method. Whenever you tell an employee how to do something, there is an assumption that it's on-the-job training. But while there may be training, there may be very little learning. And if the employee doesn't learn, the employee hasn't been trained.

Perhaps you are considering whether on-the-job training is appropriate for employees in your organization. Maybe you have the responsibility of training others but don't have a plan for how it should be accomplished. Whatever your position, this book will help. It provides guidelines for planning and conducting on-the-job training through the Four-Step Training Method, a proven system, as well as several tools to assist the organization and the trainer. You'll find numerous examples of tried-and-true approaches that will guarantee success with on-the-job training.

About the Author

Charles M. Cadwell is the President of Training Systems +, a company based in Kansas that specializes in training systems design and development. He has over 20 years of experience in the training field.

Before starting Training Systems + in 1986, Mr. Cadwell held positions as Director of Field Training for Pizza Hut, Inc., and Director of Training for Popingo Video. He has worked with numerous Fortune 500 companies, as well as with many small- and medium-sized companies, to develop and conduct onthe-job training.

Mr. Cadwell is the author of several books and audiocassette programs on the subjects of recruiting and selection, orientation and training, first-line supervision, coaching, empowerment, and leadership.

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Chapter One

Why Your Organization Should Train

Chapter Objectives

- Describe the reasons for training.
- List the benefits of training to employees and to an organization.
- Describe what happens when training is done for the wrong reasons.

To survive in today's competitive marketplace, your organization must make the most of all of its resources, including its human resources—your employees. One of the ways your organization can help employees work up to their potential is through training. Training can help employees in two ways:

- By teaching job skills and behaviors—Employees have to be taught skills and behaviors so they can perform their jobs. For example, a company purchases new equipment and the employees do not know how to use it, or an organization wants the employees to follow a different customer service process. For both, training is required.
- **By helping employees improve performance**—An employee's performance may decline because the correct method for accomplishing a task has been forgotten. For example, a retail company conducts an inventory at the end of every year. Even though the employees have done it before, a year has passed since the last inventory, so employees require a training session to be certain they understand their roles and responsibilities and to go over new procedures.

Training can help your employees work up to their potential.

Why Your Organization Should Train

Take a Moment	
What skills and behaviors do your employees need that require training?	Ś
In what areas would training improve the performance of your employees?	

How Employees and Organizations Benefit from Training

Effective training produces many benefits for employees and organizations:

The Employees

- **Greater job satisfaction**—Employees take more satisfaction in a job when they know how to do it well. If they aren't sure what to do or how to do it properly, they can become frustrated and dissatisfied with their work.
- **Peer acceptance**—Most employees want to be accepted as part of the work group. Learning a job quickly and being able to "pull their own weight" is one of the best ways for them to gain acceptance.

Effective training produces many benefits for employees and organizations.

Why Your Organization Should Train

- **Improved self-esteem**—The combination of job satisfaction and peer acceptance leads to improved self-esteem.
- **Opportunity to advance in the organization**—Employees who demonstrate excellent performance at one level in an organization often have the opportunity to advance to other levels of responsibility.
- **Potential for greater earnings**—Advancement offers the potential for greater earnings.

The Organization

- **Increased productivity**—Employees who know how to perform their jobs are more effective and more productive than those who learn through trial and error.
- **Higher levels of customer satisfaction**—Employees are able to take care of customers properly and have better skills for solving customer-related problems.
- **Improved quality**—Standards are met when people know what the organization expects from them.

Is your organization taking advantage of all of these benefits?

When to Use On-the-Job Training

Organizations can train employees in a number of ways. Some methods involve classroom instruction; others utilize instructional media such as video or computer software. One of the most effective methods of training in use today is also one of the most basic—on-the-job training.

On-the-job training can be used in a variety of situations. When should you choose on-the-job training for your employees? Here are a few situations in which on-the-job training can be particularly effective:

- Training must be done under time constraints. A company hires a new employee who has to be able to begin working immediately. The employee can't wait for a training class to be scheduled. Another company has procedure change which must be implemented quickly. It affects a group of employees, but there is not enough time to arrange classroom training. Both companies would benefit from on-the-job training.
- Training is the responsibility of line management. In some cases, line management employees are the only people who know the job well enough to train other employees. They may not have the time or the inclination to develop the skills to conduct formal classroom training. Also, they may not be comfortable in front of large groups but do work well with small groups or in a one-on-one setting.
- **Training budget is limited.** On-the-job training can take place without the expense of equipment, supplies, or classroom materials. On-the-job training also eliminates, or reduces, the costs of transportation, lodging, food, and other expenses that often are associated with other types of training. Your organization saves money in other areas as well: because employees are able to remain in the workplace during on-the-job training, they can continue to perform job responsibilities.

On-the-job training is one of the most effective methods of training in use today.

Why Your Organization Should Train

Even those who have never trained before can plan and organize an onthe-job training program. • **Training must reflect workplace situations.** Training is more effective when learning takes place in the "real world" rather than in a simulated environment. When the training occurs at an off-site location, employees may have more difficulty using their skills on the job.

These are just a few of the reasons for choosing on-the-job training. Another is the ease with which even those who have never trained before can plan and organize an on-the-job training program.



Take a Moment

Does your organization have on-the-job training requirements that would benefit from the four-step method? Consider these factors:

- Time Constraints
- Line Management Training Responsibility
- Cost Considerations
- Realistic Setting

When Training Is Not the Answer

We've seen that training can be extremely useful when employees need to learn a new skill or improve performance. It can be tempting to think that training is the answer for every employee performance issue. But there are situations in which training simply will not be useful to the organization or its employees.

Training is not an efficient choice when employees have already mastered basic skills and simply require some additional information. If a company introduced a new telephone system, training would be required to teach employees how to use the system in the most productive manner. But if employees already know how to use the phone system, and the company simply wants them to answer with a different greeting, sending a memo would be just as effective as a training session—and it would cost a lot less.

Training is also not the solution for every employee performance problem. Employees may start taking shortcuts or making mistakes on the job without realizing they are doing so. In many of these situations, organizations spend hundreds of hours and even more dollars doing "refresher" training because they believe the employees have forgotten how to do a task. In reality, the problem often is with management. It's not that the employees don't know how to do the job—it's that they may not see the reasons for doing it the way management wants it done. It's been estimated that 80 percent of the problems employees have at work could be resolved by management following up on training and providing feedback to the employees.

In some companies, training is done because management believes it has to:

- Reward the employees for their past efforts.
- Fulfill legal obligations.
- Show that the company is "doing something."
- Follow the request of someone who says, "We need a training program."

Training is not the solution for every employee performance problem.

• Why Your Organization Should Train

When training is done for one of these reasons, time and money are invested poorly. Tangible results are not achieved, and there are no measurable benefits. In short, companies would be better off *not* training the employees.

Now that you've seen when training can be helpful—and when it isn't—you're ready to start your own on-the-job training program. In the next chapter, you'll see how to start developing that program by creating a training plan. In the remaining chapters, you'll see how to execute your training plan using an easy-to-follow four-step model that will help make your training program a success.

Why Your Organization Should Train

Self-Check: Chapter 1 Review

Answers to these questions appear on page 98.

- 1. True or False? One reason for training is to improve self-esteem.
- True or False? Training would be helpful when learning how to operate a new computer system.
- True or False? Employees' opportunities for advancement can be improved by training.
- True or False?
 While learning a new job, employees rarely are concerned about being accepted by their coworkers.
- True or False? Employees increase their earning potential when they are trained.
- 6. True or False? Effective training will produce higher levels of customer satisfaction.

7. True or False?

If employees know how to perform a job satisfactorily, training should be given so they will think the organization cares about them.

8. List four situations that are especially appropriate for onthe-job training



Chapter*Two Developing a Training Plan*

Chapter Objectives

- Write learning objectives.
- List the materials needed for the training.
- Prepare a training outline.
 - Describe specific tryout and follow-up activities.

Your first step to effective onthe-job training is to create a well-developed training plan. Y our first step to effective on-the-job training is to create a well-developed training plan. The plan may be prepared by the trainer or by anyone in the organization who has a thorough knowledge of the subject to be taught. It should provide the trainer with the information necessary to complete all the steps successfully.

A well-developed training plan should include:

- Learning objectives.
- A list of training materials.
- An outline for the trainer to follow.
- Descriptions of the tryout and follow-up requirements.

Develop Learning Objectives

To prepare an effective training plan, a trainer must first define the learning objectives. The choice of words is important. Note that these are *learning* objectives, not *training* objectives. You don't train to meet objectives. You train so employees will gain knowledge and learn skills or behaviors that help them perform their jobs. The objectives should make clear what employees are expected to learn.

The best way to develop learning objectives is to complete the statement, "After training, the employee will be able to . . ." Give a clear description of what you want the trainees to do after completing the training.

Learning objectives must meet four criteria. They must be:

- Specific—The trainer should be clear about what is to be done during training.
- **Measurable**—The trainer should be able to measure the results.
- **Realistic**—The employee should be able to accomplish the task during training.
- **Observable**—The trainer should be able to see the trainee do it.

How do the above criteria work in practice? Consider the following example:

- Sonya has been asked to prepare a training plan for new customer service representives. She knows her company has high standards for its customer service, so she writes the following learning objective:
 - Provide excellent service.

Does Sonya's learning objective meet the four criteria?

Your objectives should make clear what employees are expected to learn.

Developing a Training Plan

Learning objectives must be specific, measurable, realistic, and observable.

"Provide excellent service" has a nice ring to it, but the service is not specific and "excellent" is not defined. That means the objective can't be measured. If it can't be measured, we don't know if it can be realistically accomplished during training; therefore, the trainer can't observe the employee's performance.

After considering the four criteria, Sonya broke her learning objective down into several more specific ones related to answering the phone, greeting customers in the store, and handling complaints. Her first new learning objective was: "Follow correct procedures for answering incoming telephone calls." That learning objective describes a specific type of service (answering the telephone) that can be measured (were correct procedures followed?) The objective appears to be one that employees could realistically achieve during training, giving Sonya or another trainer the chance to observe employee performance.

"Doing" Words

Certain words should be used at the beginning of learning objectives to ensure that the objectives describe actions that are observable. They're called "doing" words. A few are listed below. You'll find more words in the section Writing Learning Objectives on page 89 of Chapter 9.

List Describe Write

Perform

Name

Explain

Demonstrate Prepare

Here are some words to avoid because the actions are vague:

Appreciate Understand Know Realize

What does it look like when someone "appreciates" something? How do trainees "understand" something?

Developing a Training Plan •

Take a Moment

Developing objectives is the first step in preparing an onthe-job training plan. What should your employees be able to do after they are trained? List the objectives below. Start by thinking, "After training, my employees will be able to..."

Is each objective specific, measurable, realistic, and observable? If not, try rewriting them.

List Necessary Training Materials

The next step in developing your training plan is to list the training materials you'll need to meet your learning objectives during onthe-job training. You may not be able to complete the list until after the training outline has been prepared. So, start on the list after you have defined your learing objectives, but go back to it after the outline is finished to make sure you have included all the materials you'll need.

Open end wrench

• Drill press

Rivet gun

Developing a Training Plan

- Computer
- ◆ Calculator

Trainer's Materials

Reference Materials

- Operations Manual
- Policies and Procedures
- Manufacturers' manuals
- ♦ Blueprints
- Technical specifications

Equipment and Tools

Flat head screwdriver

- Flip chart and markers
- White board and markers
- Audiotapes and equipment

Four types of materials are used during training:

- Videotapes and equipment
- Operations manuals
- ♦ Wall charts

Employee's Materials

- Workbooks or paper for taking notes
- Pens or pencils
- ♦ Handouts
- Sample finished products
- Safety goggles

The types of materials will vary based on the type of training and the location of the training. If the training requires many materials, you'll find it helpful to divide the list into the four categories. However, if you have only a few items, you may wish to use one list.

Developing a Training Plan

What materials will you need for on-the-job training? List them below: Equipment and Tools: Reference Materials: Trainer's Materials:		
them below: Equipment and Tools: Reference Materials: Trainer's Materials:	Take a Moment	
Reference Materials:	What materials will you need for on-the-job training? List them below:	€ <
Trainer's Materials:	Equipment and Tools:	
Trainer's Materials:		-
Trainer's Materials:		
Trainer's Materials:		_
	Reference Materials:	
		—
Employee's Materials:	Trainer's Materials:	
Employee's Materials:		_
Employee's Materials:		_
Employee's Materials:		
	Employee's Materials:	
		_
		_

Developing a Training Plan

Learning objectives tell you where you need to go. The training outline tells you how to get there.

Create a Training Outline

Learning objectives tell you where you need to go. The training outline tells you how to get there. It's your road map for guiding participants.

The training outline is a plan for how you will present and demonstrate the task to convey the learning objectives. The amount of detail in this outline will depend on the complexity of the task being trained. If you are developing the outline for yourself, it may be brief. If you are developing the outline for other trainers who are not as familiar with the topic or the subject to be taught is complex, you will need more detail. As you are working on your outline, refer to the Training Outline Template on page 90–92 in Chapter 9.¹

Your learning objectives should serve as your guide when developing the outline. Ideally, each objective will have a corresponding section in the training outline.

The Whole-Part-Whole Approach

Explain the procedures necessary for completing each of your learning objectives by using the whole-part-whole approach when developing the outline. Begin with an overview (whole) of a specific learning objective and explain why it is important. Next, present and demonstrate each step necessary to complete that objective (part). Summarize by pulling all the parts back together (whole). To see how this works, let's return to our previous example of training a customer service representative.

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Developing a Training Plan •

After she identified her learning objectives, Sonya used them as the main topics for her training outline. She prepared the outline for her first learning objective like this:

- I. Follow correct procedures for answering incoming telephone calls.
 - A. Explain how answering the phone affects customer perception.
 - B. Describe the steps for correctly answering the telephone:
 - Convey a positive attitude.
 - Use clear voice inflection.
 - Answer in three rings.
 - Use the appropriate greeting.
 - Route calls to the correct department.
 - Page employees with the intercom.
 - Respond correctly when you can't help a customer.
 - Resolve situations with upset customers.
 - C. Using the trouble-shooting guide in the manual, summarize the key points of telephone procedure.

Take a Moment

Can you identify how Sonya used the whole-part-whole pattern in creating her outline? List the whole-part-whole descriptions below. List only the first two items for the "part." Whole:

Part:	
Whole:	



Developing a Training Plan

Did you find the whole-part-whole pattern? The first whole is "Explain how answering the phone affects customer perception." The first two items in the part section are "Convey a positive attitude" and "Use clear voice inflection." The second whole is "Summarize the key points of telephone procedure."

Tell them what you're going to tell them (whole). Tell them (part). Tell them what you told them (whole).

A simple way to remember the whole-part-whole approach to training is to recall the old saying, "Tell them what you're going to tell them (whole), tell them (part), and then tell them what you told them (whole)." Using this approach will keep you focused when you are developing the outline and when you are conducting on-the-job training.



Tryout and Follow-Up Activities

Often, a trainer does not ask trainees to perform the tasks being demonstrated during the training session. The trainees' understanding of the task will not be complete unless they "try" the tasks being demonstrated, and the trainer "follows up."

Trainers should refer to the learning objectives when defining what the trainees will practice.

In the outline, the employee on page 21, is required to perform several tasks to "answer the telephone correctly, including":

_____ Answer the telephone in three rings

_____ Use the appropriate greeting

- _____ Route calls to the correct department
- _____ Page employees with the intercom
- Respond correctly when a customer needs further assistance.

The items are in a checklist format so that when a trainee performs to the standard, the trainer may either initial or place a check mark on the line. This serves two purposes: It provides the trainee with positive reinforcement that a task has been learned, and it also enables the trainer to track the trainee's progress.

Your organization may elect to use the outline as documentation that training was conducted and that the trainee learned the task. If so, a signatures block similar to the one on the following page may be added at the end of the follow-up section. Trainers should refer to the learning objectives when defining what the trainees will practice. 2

Developing a Training Plan

The signatures below indicate that the trainee has satisfactorily completed the training outlined above according to standards established by the trainer and the company.

Employee Signature

Date

Date

Trainer Signature

The signature block also serves as a double-check on the training process. The signed outline is filed in a permanent place, such as the employee's personnel record, to verify that training was completed.



Consider one of the learning objectives of your training plan. What do you want the trainees to practice during try-out?

Developing a Training Plan •

Self-Check: Chapter 2 Review

Answers to these questions appear on page 98.

2.

3.

4.

outline.

approach.

trainee to try out.

1. Well-written learning objectives should meet what four criteria?

criteria?
a
b
c
d
Rewrite the following objective so it meets the four criteria.
"Increase sales over last year."
What four types of materials are used for an on-the-job
training session?
a
b
Read the following statements. Check all that are TRUE.
The training outline is like a road map.

Other resources may be used to supplement the

The training outline should follow the part-whole

The training outline should list key points for the

2

• Developing a Training Plan

5.	The analogy for a training outline is:
	Whole
	Tell them
	Whole
6.	True or False?
	Tryout is only necessary when there is a short presentation.
7.	A signature block often is used at the end of a training outline for the following reasons. (check all that are TRUE.)
	To make sure the employee shows up for training
	To document that the trainer did the training
	To verify that the employee learned the material
8	True or False?
0.	Effective trainers only use training outlines the first time
	they conduct a training session.



Chapter_{Three}

The Four-Step Training Method for On-the-Job Training

Chapter Objectives

- Describe the Four-Step Training Method.
- List the benefits of the Four-Step Method.
- Explain when the Four-Step Method should be used.
 - List the barriers that must be overcome, so you will be successful with the Four-Step Method.

Thousands of organizations have adopted the Four-Step Training Method. Once you have created your training plan, it's time to put that plan into action. One particularly effective way to execute an on-the-job training plan is by following the Four-Step Training Method. The Four-Step Training Method was introduced in this country by the military during World War II, when there was a need to train a large number of people quickly and effectively. Since that time, thousands of businesses and nonprofit organizations have adopted the four-step method as the preferred method for on-the-job training.

Here is a summary of the Four-Step Method. The steps will be discussed in detail in Chapters 4 through 7.

The Four-Step Training Method •

Outline of the Four-Step Training Method

I. Preparation

- Prepare yourself (the trainer).
- Prepare training materials.
- Prepare training environment.
- Prepare trainees.

II. Presentation/Demonstration

- Present training content.
- Demonstrate task.
- Verify trainees understand tasks.

III.Tryout

- Implement trainees' practice.
- Observe trainees' practice.
- Provide feedback to trainees.
- Help trainees gain speed and develop accuracy.

IV. Follow-Up

- Have trainees work alone.
- Designate "helpers" for trainees.
- Reconfirm trainees understand tasks.
- Evaluate training procedures.

You can modify the four-step method to create either a threestep or a five-step method. Usually, the three-step method combines the Tryout and Follow-Up steps. Another three-step modification links the Presentation/Demonstration with the Tryout. The five-step process separates Presentation/Demonstration into two steps.

Benefits of Four-Step Training

There are several benefits to using the Four-Step Method.

- It is easy to understand and to use. Using the four-step outline will ensure a satisfying training experience for everyone.
- It can be used on the job. It doesn't need a classroom or special equipment, other than would be required for the workplace.
- It doesn't require training expertise to use. Almost anyone who has the desire and willingness to become a trainer will achieve success with this method.
- It provides a template for any training situation. The trainer decides what is important based upon the training situation and makes changes when necessary.

One of the best things about the Four-Step Method is its universal application. Even if the trainer has very little training experience, the four-step method allows procedures to be explained in the simplest terms.



Take a Moment

Can you think of any other benefits to using the Four-Step Training Method? List them below:

Breaking the Barriers to Successful On-the-Job Training

While there are many advantages to using the Four-Step Method, problems could arise that would present barriers to successful on-the-job training.

Training Barrier 1—The Wrong Trainer

The Problem

Even though your company selected a person with a lot of training experience, that person did not provide the best training for the employees.

The Solution

A trainer does not have to be an expert. There are, however, a few qualities an effective trainer must possess:

Good communication skills

Effective trainers have to be clear and concise in their training and must specify what is expected from the trainees. They also need good listening skills that enable them to be "in tune" with what the trainees are saying. Providing feedback is another important communication skill. Trainees want to know when they are doing the job properly or when corrective action is required.

Strong subject knowledge

An in-depth knowledge of the subject is critical when using the Four-Step Method. The trainer must have a comprehensive understanding of the job to be able to fill in the details of the training outline.

On-the-job experience

An effective trainer has done the task several times before and understands what it takes to do it successfully. The knowledge and skills acquired over time provide special insights that can be passed on to the trainees. This is important, especially when a new procedure is being introduced.

Patience

Learning a task can be frustrating for the trainee. When the trainee has difficulty, it also can be frustrating for the trainer. Having patience when others make mistakes is a real virtue. Unfortunately, some trainers cannot understand why employees do not learn tasks quickly.

• Interest in helping people learn

People who train others because "they have to" or "didn't have a choice" do not make effective trainers. The best trainers are those who enjoy working with others and have a sense of achievement when they see someone learn a new skill. Successful trainers take as much, if not more, pride in the accomplishment of their trainees as in their ability to train.

Respect for others

Other employees must respect the knowledge and skills of the person who is assigned to do the training. This respect becomes doubly important when a new skill is being taught. Trainees must have confidence in the ability of their trainer.

Sense of humor

Having a sense of humor means more than just telling stories. When faced with learning something new, many trainees feel pressured to learn quickly without making mistakes. A trainer with a sense of humor can put people at ease by not reacting in anger when something goes wrong and by letting them know it's not the end of the world if they have trouble learning a new task.

Other employees must respect the knowledge and skills of the person who is assigned to do the training.

The Four-Step Training Method

Take a Moment

Who in your organization would make effective on-the-job trainers? List their names and special qualities below. Consider their communication skills, knowledge of subject, experience, patience, interest in seeing people learn, respect of others, sense of humor.



Training Barrier 2—Misperception of Time Required to Conduct Training

The Problem

Your employees may be reluctant to become trainers because they think it will require a great amount of time to prepare and present the information and to complete the follow-up.

The Solution

Emphasize to employees who may be potential trainers that:

- A well-developed outline based upon the Four-Step Method will save time by providing all the necessary "prompts."
- The first on-the-job training session involves the most preparation time. Preparation should decrease as the number of training presentations increases.
- After-the-training, follow-up will be done during the trainee's working hours. If the training necessitates "add-on" or after-hours time, days off or salary compensation will be offered.

• The Four-Step Training Method



Take a Moment

What time barriers exist in your organization that would affect potential trainers? List them below, along with what can be done to remove the barriers:



Training Barrier 3—Lack of Trainee Motivation

The Problem

Your trainers have had situations when the trainees aren't motivated by what they are being taught.

The Solution

Trainees need to be motivated to learn so that they and the organization benefit from their training. The trainer should remember that:

- In some cases, trainees may not see the importance of the training as it relates to the job. Here's an example of how to emphasize why trainees should be motivated: Learning preventive maintenance on equipment may seem unnecessary, but not doing that maintenance could lead to downtime and a reduction in employee hours.
- If the trainee is not enthusiastic about a task because it is routine or repetitive, the trainer should be straightforward rather than trying to create an illusion of excitement. It should be stressed that every task is integral to the overall performance of the job.
- Creative, constructive ways must be found to change the trainees' attitudes. A positive focus on why training is being given and the importance of the training to the employees and to the company will improve the training process.

The Four-Step Training Method •

Take a Moment

What trainee motivation barriers exist in your organization that might affect the success of on-the-job training efforts? List them below, along with what should be done to remove the barriers:

Motivation Barrier	Ways to Remove the Barrier


• The Four-Step Training Method



Self-Check: Chapter 3 Review

Fill in the blanks for each of the following statements. Suggested answers appear on page 99.

- 1. The four-step training method sequence is:
 - 1. Preparation
 - 2. ______
 - 4. Follow-up
- 2. List three benefits of using the four-step method for on-thejob training.

b.____

С. _

a. _

b. _

с.

d. _

e.

a. _____

3. List five qualities of effective trainers:

- 4. The ______ on-the-job training session usually requires the most preparation time.
- 5. When the trainee is not enthusiastic, a trainer should keep a

on why training is being given.



Chapter_{Four}

Step One—Preparation

Chapter Objectives

Prepare yourself to conduct training.

Prepare the training materials.

- Prepare the training environment.
- Prepare the trainees for the training.

Preparation is the key to success with on-the-job training. By being prepared, the trainer creates a positive learning experience which makes trainees enthusiastic about learning the task.

Preparation is the key to success with on-the-job training.

The amount of time required for preparation will vary according to the complexity of the subject, the number of times the training has been conducted, and the type of training materials used. However, a solid training plan will reduce the preparation time.

The first step of the Four-Step Training Method is *Preparation*. During this step you will:

- Prepare yourself (the trainer).
- Prepare your training materials.
- Prepare the training environment.
- Prepare the trainees.

Prepare Yourself

The time you invest preparing yourself for training will be returned to you several-fold. Your first training session will require the greatest amount of preparation. The second session will require some additional preparation time also, as you'll want to incorporate what you learned during the first training session and eliminate or reduce problems that occurred. By the third, you'll be a pro!

Follow these three easy steps to prepare yourself for training:

1. Review the content.

Once you have your training outline in hand, your first step will be to read the outline for flow and content. Be sure you can describe the whole-part-whole of the outline. What will you do first, second, and thereafter? If you have questions or want to add items, write them on the outline immediately. When you finish reading the outline, summarize the message of the training in a few words. Do you understand it?

Next, if the outline is based on reference material, obtain the material and review it. This will answer some of your questions and give you additional ideas for the training. Finish preparing the content by reading the outline one more time. This will finalize the outline, and you'll be ready to move to the next activity.

2. Practice the training presentation.

The idea of practicing for on-the-job training may seem to be preparation overkill, but it is time well-spent. New trainers often are amazed at what they say and do when it's "live" training. What sounds good in our heads just doesn't seem to come out of our mouths the same way! Continue practicing until you have confidence in yourself and your material.

Δ

Your first training session will require the greatest amount of preparation.

The two best ways to practice are:

- Use a tape recorder. What you hear when you play the tape may surprise you.
- Ask one or two people to allow you to "train" them. Use people who don't know anything, or who know very little, about the task.

Continue practicing until you have confidence in yourself and your material. You may feel this way after the first practice, or it may take two or three times. Don't shortchange your trainees by skipping this important step.

3. Become physically and mentally "ready."

Tomorrow you're conducting a training session. You've prepared the content and practiced it until you know the material forward and backward. You're ready to go—almost. Don't forget to prepare yourself physically and mentally for the training.

Here are ten techniques that will ensure your success:

- 1. Be rested.
- 2. Arrive early to solve any last-minute problems.
- 3. Limit food intake beforehand.
- 4. Avoid milk products and carbonated beverages. Drink water.
- 5. Limit caffeine intake.
- 6. Dress comfortably and appropriately.
- 7. Organize your materials.
- 8. Go to the restroom before you start training.
- 9. Think positive thoughts:
 - I know the material.
 - I have reviewed resource materials.
 - I have practiced.
- 10. Remember that your trainees are there to learn, not to judge you.

Take a Moment	
List and explain the three activities that will prepare you for conducting on-the-job training:	KN
1.	
2.	
3.	

Prepare the Training Materials

The materials needed for on-the-job training will depend on the subject being taught. If you added materials while you were practicing, be sure that you've written them on your training outline. You may find it helpful to develop a separate materials checklist that can be photocopied. This allows you to check off the materials as they are gathered for each training session.

Here are some hints that will help you organize the materials:

- Know how many employees you are training.
- Have extra sets of materials, if needed, for the tryout or in case you have to train other employees at the last minute.
- Ensure that you have access to all the equipment and materials you will need.
- Put materials in the order in which you will use them and be sure they are accessible.
- Be sure you have an up-to-date copy of the materials.

The materials needed for onthe-job training will depend on the subject being taught. Δ

- Take along reference materials and manuals to answer specific questions.
- Have examples of the finished product or job available so the employees can see what they are expected to do.
- Be sure that power sources are available for equipment.
- Have pens or pencils available.
- Have safety gear available.
- Verify that computer programs are up and running.

When conducting several training sessions, it may be more economical to photocopy the materials for all the sessions at one time, rather than copying them whenever you offer the training. If so, find a place where you can store the materials between training sessions.



Prepare the Training Environment

Trainees develop good work habits when they learn in the proper environment. Trainers who ask participants for feedback often are surprised that the environment gets more critical comments than any other part of the training. The room was too hot or too cold, or the lights were too bright or too dim, or the training area was messy, or the trainer could not be seen during the presentation and demonstration. Preparing the training environment properly is a task that cannot be overlooked or taken for granted.

The best training environment is one that isn't noticed. There is adequate space in which to learn and there are no distractions. If you're training in the workplace and not a classroom, you will have to adapt your plan to that specific work environment.

How Does Your Environment Rate?

Is your training environment under control? Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the work area as clean and neat as possible?
- Has all the trash been removed?
- Have items that are not related to the training been put away?
- Is the air temperature and ventilation acceptable?
- Is there adequate lighting?
- Are tables or chairs available?
- Are training materials accessible?
- Have telephone calls been diverted?
- Is there a "Quiet, please. Training in progress," sign in place?
- Is the area free from distractions?
- Have safety precautions been taken?
- Are coffee or refreshments needed, and if so, are they available?

The best training environment is one that isn't noticed.



Take a Moment

List the ways in which you will prepare trainees for your onthe-job training session:

Prepare the Trainees

Your goal is to put employees at ease so they will be comfortable during the training. Preparing employees for training begins the moment you meet them. Your goal is to put them at ease so they will be comfortable during the training.

Make sure that the trainees know your name and your position with the company. You may think that everyone knows you, but perhaps they do not. If you're certain the trainees do know you, then greet them as soon as you meet them. This is especially important if they are coming to an unfamiliar training location.

Consider the following ideas for making your trainees comfortable during on-the-job training:

- If there is more than one trainee, have them introduce themselves.
- Cover the "necessities," such as restroom locations, breaks, food, drinks.
- Tell them emergency messages and telephone calls will be put through, but all other messages or calls must be handled during breaks.
- Let them know the approximate length of the training session.
- Tell them the number of training sessions they must attend.

- Allow them to ask a few questions before the training begins.
- Review the learning objectives before the training begins and repeat during training.
- Communicate what you expect from them during the training.
- Keep the session informal by encouraging their questions and participation.

Take a Moment

List the steps you will take to prepare the environment for your on-the-job training session:





Self-Check: Chapter 4 Review

Answers to these questions appear on page 99.

1. True or False?

Preparation time can be reduced by having a solid training plan.

2. True or False?

The most preparation time will be required the first time you conduct the training.

3. True or False?

Practicing your presentation is not necessary if you have previously done any type of training.

- True or False? Drinking coffee with caffeine can help keep you alert during the training.
- True or False? Thinking positive thoughts can help make your training go smoother.
- 6. True or False?

A list of training materials should be included in the training outline.

7. True or False?

The materials needed for on-the-job training will depend on the subject being taught.

8. True or False?

Trainees often are more critical of the training environment than any other aspect of the training.

9. True or False?

Trainees should be able to make calls and receive messages during training.



Chapter_{*Five*}

Step Two– Presentation/Demonstration

Chapter Objectives



- Present the training content.
- Demonstrate the task to the trainees.
- Verify that the trainees understand the task.

Most of us had our first experiences with on-the-job training in grade school during "Show and Tell." The success of the Four-Step Training Method depends on how well the basic principles are presented to the participants before they see the task demonstrated.

The second step of the Four-Step Training Method is *Presentation/Demonstration*.

During this step you will:

- Present the training content.
- Demonstrate the task.
- Verify that the trainees understand the task.

Present the Training Content

Keep in mind that the key points of your presentation and demonstration are based on the learning objectives of the training outline. Begin by telling the trainees the learning objectives for the session. If they know where you are leading them, they are likely to follow.

There are several techniques you can follow that will make your presentation more effective.

- Follow a logical sequence. Explain the procedure in a stepby-step manner. Begin with the first thing to be done, followed by the second step, and so on.
- **Be clear and concise.** Get to the point and eliminate anything that's extraneous. The less you say, the less the trainees will have to remember.
- **Explain the reasons "why."** Give an explanation of why it is best to perform the task a certain way. This will keep trainees from developing bad habits.
- Stress key points. Provide the key points to ensure that the trainee is focused on learning the job.
- Avoid jargon and buzz words. Keep your presentation simple and to the point. Too many terms will confuse the trainee.
- Speak at a moderate speed. Avoid speaking too slowly you may offend the trainee. On the other hand, if you speak too quickly, the trainee may not be able comprehend an idea before you move on to the next one.
- Make frequent eye contact. Look at your trainees frequently during the presentation. Maintain eye contact for approximately three to five seconds before you look away. The expressions in the trainees' eyes will offer clues as to how well they are understanding what you are saying.

The key points of your presentation/demonstration are based on the learning objectives of the training outline.

 Be enthusiastic. Demonstrate your interest in the topic. If the trainees appear bored, they may be reflecting back the message you are sending them. Enthusiasm is contagious, and the participants will catch it.



Take a Moment

Think about your on-the-job training session as you review the presentation techniques just described. In the space provided, list a few actions that will improve your next presentation. You will find it helpful to mark the training outline where you want to take the action.

Actions:

Demonstrate the Task

Researchers estimate that people remember only 20 percent of what they hear but up to 50 percent of what they see and hear. So it makes sense that you should demonstrate the task.

Here are several techniques that will make your demonstration more effective:

- **Position the employee correctly.** The trainee must be able to see the entire demonstration. If possible, avoid having the trainee directly opposite you, as this creates a mirror image, and the trainee has to sort out what is done with right and left hands. The best position is beside. Depending on the angle and the space available, you may have to step back occasionally or exaggerate your movements while performing the task.
- Use manageable sections. Demonstrate the task one step at a time. If possible, have the demonstration follow the sequence of your presentation. Presenting the whole task at one time will cause confusion and will overload the trainee with too much information.
- Demonstrate first at the expected work speed. The first time you demonstrate the task, do it at the required speed. This will establish the standards for speed and accuracy. Do not try to impress the trainee by doing the task faster. Explain that you don't expect the trainee to achieve this same speed and accuracy immediately.
- **Demonstrate next at a slower speed.** Although you may have done the job one hundred times, it's the first time for the trainee. A slower speed will enable the trainee to learn the task and grasp the details.
- Use real materials, props, or cut-aways. Whenever possible, use real materials during the demonstration. If this is not possible, obtain or develop a prop. Request that your company provide samples, props, or cut-aways for the training. The more realistic the demonstration, the easier it is for the trainee to complete the tryout step.

Researchers estimate that people remember only 20 percent of what they hear but up to 50 percent of what they see and hear.



Take a Moment

Think about your on-the-job training session as you review the demonstration techniques just listed. In the space provided, write a few actions that will improve your next demonstration. You will find it helpful to mark the training outline where you want to take the action.

Actions:



Verify that Trainees Understand the Task

Even if you present and demonstrate a task the same way every time you train, it is unlikely that all trainees will respond in same manner. Some will learn quicker than others, some will have more questions, and some, in spite of your best efforts, may never quite understand the task. Always verify the trainee's understanding of the task before you move to the tryout step in the training process.

There are three ways you can test a trainee's understanding:

1. Ask for questions.

At points throughout the training, ask trainees, "What questions do you have?" With this request, you are indicating that questions are part of the training process. Trainees are more likely to ask their own questions once they realize it is expected. Your request may be answered with a "No," if you ask, "Do you have any questions?" Trainees may not want to admit they have questions, because they're afraid it will indicate they are incapable of comprehending the task. It also could mean they are confused. You also can "prime" them by saying, "One of the questions I'm often asked is . . . ," then answering the question yourself.

2. Have trainees repeat instructions.

Focus on relevant points that must be followed to perform the task properly. Don't ask them to repeat the entire process. Tell them that you are asking them to repeat instructions because you are concerned about how well you communicated the message. You could say, "Just to be sure I was clear, tell me how you should" This approach keeps the trainees from feeling threatened and allows them to respond with brief answers.

If the trainees repeat the instructions correctly, respond, "Good. I'm glad my instructions were clear." If they have difficulty, correct them in a constructive manner: "I may have forgot to mention that" As the trainer, you have to assume responsibility for the accuracy of the communication. Always verify the trainee's understanding of the task before you move to the tryout step in the training process.

Usually, you'll need only two or three questions to determine what the trainees have learned.

3. Test verbally for understanding.

Keep the questions short and to the point. Your goal is to verify understanding while reinforcing what the trainees are learning. Usually, you'll need only two or three questions to determine what the trainees have learned. This allows the trainees to develop the confidence that they are making progress and that they are learning the task.

Try to avoid questions that can be answered with a simple "Yes," or "No," as these answers give very little insight into what the trainees have learned. Ask open-ended questions that begin with words such as what, why, how, when, or where. For example, "Where would you store the oily rags after cleaning the equipment?



Take a Moment

Think about your on-the-job training session as you review the verification techniques just listed. In the space provided, write a few actions that you can take to confirm that trainees understand the task. You'll find it helpful to mark the training outline where you want to take these actions.

Actions:

Self-Check: Chapter 5 Review

Answers to these questions appear on pages 99-100.

- 1. The third step of the Four-Step Training Method is similar to ______ and _____.
- 2. The key points of your presentation and demonstration are the ______.
- 3. When explaining a procedure, your instructions should follow a _______ sequence.
- 4. Two things to avoid when making a presentation are ______ and _____ words.
- 5. Eye contact that lasts for _____ to ____ seconds helps you verify that the trainees are understanding your presentation.
- 6. The best place for the trainee to stand when being demonstrated a task is _____
- 7. The first time you demonstrate the task, do it at the ______ speed.
- 8. When asking questions to verify understanding, it is best to avoid questions that can be answered by _____ or
- 9. A good trainer accepts ______ for the accuracy of the instruction the trainee receives.

10. True or False?

Speak slowly when making a presentation, so the trainee will understand what you are saying.

11. True or False?

The primary reason to have the trainee repeat instructions is to help you find out who is paying attention.

ChapterSix

Step Three—Tryout

Chapter Objectives

- Implement the trainee's practice.
- Observe the trainee's ability to do the task during practice.
- Provide feedback to the trainee.
- Help the trainee gain speed and develop accuracy.

If trainees practice a task, the estimate of what they will remember increases to 90 percent. A s we saw in Chapter 5, researchers estimate that people retain up to 50 percent of what they see and hear. If trainees practice a task after it is presented and demonstrated to them, the estimate of what they will remember increases to 90 percent. That's the reason a "tryout" follows the presentation/ demonstration step in the Four-Step Training Method.

The third step of the Four-Step Training Method is *Tryout*. During this step, you will:

- Implement the trainees' practice.
- Observe the trainees' practice.
- Provide feedback to the trainees.
- Help the trainees gain speed and develop accuracy.

6

Approaches to the Tryout Step

Experienced trainers take different approaches to the tryout step. Some keep it separate from the follow-up, while others prefer to have trainees perform them at the same time. Trainers also have combined the tryout with the presentation and demonstration. You should decide which method will work best for you. That decision may be determined by the task being trained.

Inexperienced trainers often stop the training process after they've completed the presentation and demonstration. They assume that because they have "trained," surely the trainees have "learned." Unfortunately, that's not always the case. During practice, the trainer will determine what trainees have learned, identify any problem areas, and help them increase their proficiency.

Never leave trainees to their own devices during the tryout. Remain alert and involved in the continuing learning process.

Implement the Trainees' Practice

A tryout should follow the presentation and demonstration as soon as it is practical. The less time that passes between the presention/demonstration step and practice, the easier it will be for the trainees to perform the task correctly. The trainees also will require less review.

To make the practice time beneficial:

1. Have the trainees explain the task.

Their explanation will help you determine whether they understand what you've taught. If every trainee makes the same mistake, you'll want to assess the points at which the presentation and demonstration were not clear.

Verbalizing the task while they are performing it also reinforces the trainees' understanding. In a sense, they are "programming" their minds to recall the correct procedures. If their explanations are incomplete, correct them, so they aren't "programmed" the wrong way. Never leave trainees to their own devices during the tryout. Remain alert and involved in the continuing learning process.

The less time that passes between the presention/ demonstration step and practice, the easier it will be for the trainees to perform the task correctly.

The number of times a task needs to be practiced will vary from trainee to trainee. 2. Ask the trainees to repeat the practice to create habits. It has been said that "Practice makes perfect." Well, it does, provided it is a perfect practice. Some trainees are able to practice the task correctly the first time, while others will have difficulty. Multiple practices are important because they create habits.

The number of times a task needs to be practiced will vary from trainee to trainee. The trainer can move on to another task after the trainee consecutively performs the task correctly two or three times.



Take a Moment

Think about how you can ensure that the trainee's practice is beneficial during on-the-job training.

What tasks will you have the trainee repeat? Why?

At what points will you have the trainee explain the task?

Observe the Trainees' Practice

Watch the trainees as they practice and note any areas which need to be clarified or corrected. The goal of practice is to give the trainees the opportunity to practice the task in a controlled environment while someone is available to help.

There are three ways to make the observation process easier:

1. Assess how you observe.

As you watch the trainees practice:

- **Explain why you are observing.** Tell the trainees you are verifying that the presentation and demonstration were sufficient for them to perform the task.
- Look at individual steps. Watch the steps in the process to determine which ones are correct and which need to be improved.
- Review the task more than once. Have the trainees perform the task two or three times to verify that they have the techniques and the knowledge required to work independently.
- Evaluate the end result. Does the product or performance meet the standard? What areas of the process created problems for the end result?

2. Recognize your influence on the trainees.

Trainees often are nervous just because they are learning something new. With a trainer watching, they can feel pressured during practice. Trainees need to be assured that the trainer is not being critical of their mistakes. You can say, "If someone were watching me, it would make me nervous. Don't worry about making a mistake." Watch the trainees as they practice and note any areas which need to be clarified or corrected.

3. Give the trainees breathing room. If you are working with small groups and you have some trainees who are learning quicker than others, have those who learn the task first assist the others who still need help. This approach allows trainees to work with their peers, who are less intimidating than a trainer. Allowing trainees to work with less direct observation from the trainer also can build their confidence because they will feel that you are beginning to trust their abilities.



Take a Moment

Think about how you will observe the trainees during onthe-job training.

What will be your focus while observing the practice?

What will you do to ensure that the trainees don't feel intimidated?

What will you do to give them breathing room?

Provide Feedback to Trainees

Everyone wants feedback about how they perform. Trainees need even more because they are learning something new. Giving feedback to trainees during the tryout is very important. If you don't give this feedback, the trainees will assume they are right. Don't let them make assumptions, especially if they're wrong. Offer lots of feedback in the beginning, then taper off gradually. It's better to err on the side of giving too much feedback than not giving enough.

When you give feedback to employees, be sure that your feedback is:

- **Specific**—Tell the trainee exactly what you saw. Avoid vague and general statements.
- **Immediate**—Give feedback as soon as you see the trainees perform the task correctly or incorrectly. Don't wait for them to do it again.
- **Earned**—Avoid feedback that isn't deserved just to make the trainees feel good. Dishonest feedback is worse than no feedback at all.
- Individualized—Give feedback to each person, not just to the group as a whole. Using the trainees' names also individualizes it.
- **Positive**—Remember that feedback always should be positive, even when telling trainees they are practicing the task incorrectly.

It's better to err on the side of giving too much feedback than not giving enough.

Correct mistakes in a supportive manner by focusing on the task being performed, not on the person performing it. Here are some ways to offer positive feedback:

- **Recognize successes.** Acknowledging successes provides reinforcement and lets employees know you are encouraged by what they are learning.
- Correct mistakes in a supportive manner. Most trainees will make errors in the beginning. If they knew how to perform the task, they wouldn't need the training! Sometimes trainees become so concerned about their errors that they make the same mistake over and over. Correct mistakes in a supportive manner by focusing on the task being performed, not on the person performing it.

Step In When Necessary

There may be times during the tryout when you will have to step in and help the trainees. For example:

- They are making an error that would cause a major problem with equipment.
- They are performing the procedure incorrectly, and it will affect what they do next.
- They are in danger of causing physical harm to themselves or others around them.

Mistakes that are not harmful may teach the trainees an important lesson. Just be certain that the lesson is not detrimental to the person or the process.

Take a Moment Think about how you will provide feedback to trainees during on-the-job training. What should you consider when giving feedback to trainees? What you will do to offer feeback in a positive way? What will you do if you have to step in?

6

Help Trainees Gain Speed and Develop Accuracy

The first time trainees see you demonstrate a task at full speed, it may be a blur to them. You make it look easy because you've done it before. Trainees are likely to be apprehensive about their ability to learn the task quickly. So, put your efforts into helping them gain speed and develop accuracy. To do this you should:

- **Practice at a slow speed.** Allow trainees to work at their own pace at first. Have them increase their speed gradually until they can meet the time requirements for the job.
- Focus on techniques. When trainees learn the proper techniques, they will develop speed as they continue to practice. It will be impossible for them to develop speed and gain accuracy until they sharpen the little things that are a part of the bigger job.
- **Provide tips from experienced employees.** Nearly every experienced employee has "tricks of the trade." Unless this is a new task that no one in the company has performed, share these tips with the trainees at the appropriate time in the training process. Some tips, if given too early, may confuse the trainees. Others, if given too late, will not be beneficial.
- **Establish time goals.** Trainees will develop speed sooner if they are given a deadline. Work with them to establish time goals for gaining speed and developing accuracy. Tell them when they should begin increasing their speed, and monitor their progress on a regular basis. Provide positive feedback as they come closer to reaching the goal.

Take a Moment Think about how you will help trainees gain speed and develop accuracy during on-the-job training. What specific techniques will you focus on to help trainees gain speed and develop accuracy?

Which experienced employees can be involved in the training?

What type of time goals are appropriate for the task?





Self-Check: Chapter 6 Review

Answers to these questions appear on page 100.

1. True or False?

Tryout helps the trainer verify that learning has taken place.

2. True or False?

Trainees should wait a couple of days after the presentation to do the tryout so the trainer can evaluate their ability to remember key facts.

3. True or False?

Having trainees explain the task as they practice it helps to "program" them for doing it right in the future.

4. True or False?

Multiple practices should be done by all trainees.

5. True or False?

When observing the tryout, the trainer should look only at the end results achieved by the trainee.

6. True or False?

Effective trainers give lots of feedback when trainees first begin to try out the task they are learning.

7. True or False?

It's a good idea to give positive feedback, even if the trainees make mistakes, so they won't become discouraged.

8. True or False?

Trainees may continue to make the same mistakes if the trainer focuses too much on their errors.

9. True or False?

Most trainees who start out doing a job slowly never get any faster.

10. True or False?

Using "tricks of the trade" should be avoided during on-thejob training.



Step Four—Follow-Up

Chapter_{Seven}

Step Four—Follow-Up

Chapter Objectives

- Have the trainees work without supervision.
- Designate people who will help the trainees, if they have questions.
- Reconfirm that trainees understand the tasks and are progressing in the workplace.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your training procedures and content.

Follow-up should be an ongoing process after the trainee has completed the tryout. The follow-up process is the last, and most important, step in the Four-Step Training Method. It should be an ongoing process after the trainee has completed the tryout. Follow-up should continue until trainees understand the task and can do it correctly without additional training. It may continue for several hours, days, weeks, or even months, depending on the nature of the task.

The fourth step of the Four-Step Training Method is *Follow-Up*. During this step you will:

- Have the trainees work alone.
- Designate "helpers" for the trainees.
- Reconfirm that the trainees understand the task.
- Evaluate the training procedures.

Follow-up may occur in conjunction with the tryout. In many cases, though, the trainees will work alone, without observation, after the tryout has been completed, and the trainee will conduct the follow-up later. When follow-up occurs later, it should be a two-way process in which the trainees contact the trainer for help, as needed, and the trainer checks to see how they are doing.

As another component of the follow-up, the trainer should measure the effectiveness of the training procedures to determine whether any changes are needed in the content before the next on-the-job training session is conducted. This includes a self-evaluation and requesting evaluations from trainees.

Have Trainees Work Alone

One of the best ways to build confidence in trainees is to tell them that you believe they are capable of working alone. Before you turn them loose, however, it's a good idea to review the tasks with them once again. Have them explain the key points and show you the correct way to perform the tasks. This also is a good opportunity to provide additional positive feedback, encourage them to continue to do the job right, and remind them about avoiding bad habits.

Don't back away completely from your trainees. The whole idea of follow-up is checking back after the trainees have been working alone for a while to see how they are doing. Check often at first, as this is the time when questions and problems will likely occur.

The follow-up covers many of the same activities as the tryout. When you check back, make it a point to observe employees performing the task and look for errors. Be prepared to provide feedback during the observation. Recognize successes when employees perform correctly. But don't ignore mistakes. If you find problems, correct mistakes in a supportive manner. Step in, when necessary, and provide assistance or retraining. The whole idea of follow-up is checking back after the trainees have been working alone for a while to see how they are doing. Gradually reduce the frequency of your contacts with them. There are no hard-and-fast guidelines for when the process should be stopped. Each trainee is different. Some may require only one or two follow-up sessions, while others may need several sessions.



Take a Moment

Think about your on-the-job training activity and what you will do when you have trainees work alone.

How will you decide when it's time to let the trainees work alone?

What will you look for when you check back with the trainees after they have worked alone?

How will you determine when the follow-up process should be stopped?

Step Four—Follow-Up

Designate "Helpers" for Trainees

Before ending the follow-up, find "helpers" for the trainees. The trainees need someone who will be available to answer questions or solve problems. You may designate yourself, or you may decide to find another person.

Benefits of Designating Yourself

In most cases, you are the best person for the trainees to contact, since you have established a rapport with them.

- You know their strengths and weaknesses.
- You may take a more personal interest in the trainees.
- You are a "neutral" person who will provide answers to their training-related problems, assuming that you are not the trainees' supervisor.
- You understand the task that the trainees are trying to incorporate into their jobs and will be able to provide them with solutions.

Benefits of Designating Others

There are situations when another person would be a better helper.

- You may not be available to help the trainees because you are training other employees or have demands on your time.
- Trainees may be reluctant to admit to you that they are experiencing problems.
- Trainees may prefer to go to their supervisor or another person in their work area.

The trainees need someone who will be available to answer questions or solve problems.
What to Consider When Designating Others

If you decide to ask other people to assist the trainees as on-thejob helpers, be sure of the following:

- They have a good relationship with the employee, especially if the helper is a supervisor. Trainees may be intimidated by some people in authority.
- They have the time and patience to work with trainees who are still learning a task and may make mistakes.
- They have a thorough understanding of the tasks and are able to answer questions.
- They have good people skills and can interact with the trainees without creating problems or having personality clashes.

When you designate helpers, give them direction in how to offer follow-up to the trainees. Provide them with a checklist of the areas to watch when working with the trainees. This may be a general checklist to which you add comments about each trainee. Establish a procedure for what the helpers are expected to do after working with the trainees. Do they tell you what they did? Do they tell the trainees' supervisor? Does the interaction remain confidential between the trainee and the designated person?

Step Four—Follow-Up •

Take a Moment
Other than yourself, whom could you designate to help the trainee?
Can the employee's supervisor be used for follow-up? Why, or why not?
What direction will you provide for those who are going to help?

Reconfirm That Trainees Understand the Task

The follow-up is the final opportunity to ensure that the trainees understand exactly what they have to do and why. Depending on when the follow-up occurs and the nature of the task, you may not be able to see the trainee perform every part of the job. The process used during the follow-up step is essentially the same as the one used during presentation/demonstration.

Since you are not in the presentation/demonstration mode, you'll will need to take a slightly different approach during follow-up than what is outlined in the method on pages 53–54 in Chapter 5. As you are observing, ask, "Why is that a good way to do the job?" or "How were you trained to do that part of the task?" If they do not understand, review only the specific areas that you know are crucial to accomplishing the task correctly. Do not review the entire training program. Avoid playing "Twenty Questions" with the trainees. You do not want to grill them; you are there to help. Your questions should ensure that the trainees understand the key concepts and give them confidence in their new skills. Your ability to accurately evaluate their understanding of the tasks will enable you to make the decision about when follow-up should be discontinued.



Take a Moment

What process will you use to ensure that the trainees understand the tasks?

What are questions you could ask during follow-up?

What will you do if the trainee doesn't really understand?

Evaluate Training Procedures

Once the follow-up with the trainees has been completed, begin an evaluation of your training efforts. A thorough evaluation of your training procedures will uncover problems with any of the four steps of the process.

Try to involve your trainees in the evaluation, as they may have insights on areas you have not considered. Provide trainees with a questionnaire that can be completed easily and returned to you. The questionnaire should be anonymous so trainees will feel free to express their opinions. If most of your training is one-on-one, you may want to wait until you have trained several people before sending out a questionnaire so each trainee does

Step Four—Follow-Up •

not respond alone. Include questions that address each of the four steps of the training process. A sample questionnaire is found on pages 96–97 in Chapter 9.

In addition to asking for opinions on the questionnaire, you can include a few "test" questions patterned after the questions in the chapter reviews of this workbook. When you review the responses, keep track of questions that frequently receive wrong answers. Several wrong answers for the same question could indicate that either the question is faulty, or information was not communicated clearly during the training. Don't get hung up on unusually high or low ratings by one or two trainees. Focus on the trends to get a true assessment of the training.

If you use a follow-up checklist for the trainees, you will have a record of the areas that cause problems frequently. Once again, look for trends. Consider the following:

- Are many trainees making the same mistakes?
- Are there certain problem areas?
- What things are trainees doing well?
- Are trainees getting support from their helpers?

The answers to these questions will offer insight into the success of your training efforts.

Evaluating Your Performance

After assessing the evaluations, make an objective evaluation of your performance as a trainer. This may be hard to do, but it is important. Ask these questions:

- Did I prepare the training content properly?
- Did I have the materials needed for the training?
- Did I ensure that the training environment was conducive to learning?
- Was I open to questions from the trainees during each step?
- Was my presentation/demonstration effective?
- Did I take enough time to verify that the trainees understood the tasks?

Make an objective evaluation of your performance as a trainer.

Step Four—Follow Up

- Did I have the trainees practice the tasks during a tryout?
- Did I have a follow-up after the training session?
- Do the trainees feel confident about performing the tasks?

Answers to these questions will indicate whether you need to make changes in your training before the next session. Compare your answers to the trainees' evaluations. Are your answers similar to those of the trainees? If not, which questions differ?

Filling out questionnaires takes valuable time away from the trainees' regular duties. Don't request an evaluation from the trainees unless you are prepared to do something with the results.

Take a Moment
How will you involve the trainees in your evaluation?
What questions will you ask the trainees about your training efforts?
What questions will you ask yourself?

Step Four—Follow-Up •

Self-Check: Chapter 7 Review

Answers to these questions appear on page 100.

- 1. The follow-up process should continue until you are certain that trainees can ______ the tasks and can perform them without ______.
- 2. Follow-up should help your trainees build their
- 3. List five things the trainer should do during initial stages of follow-up when the trainee is working alone.
- 4. In most cases, the best person for the trainee to go to for help during the follow-up process is ______.
- 5. If someone else helps the trainer with follow-up, it may be helpful to provide a ______ of things to look for.
- 6. The process used to reconfirm the trainees' understanding of the tasks is essentially the same as the process used during the _______ step.
- 7. A questionnaire sent to trainees to evaluate your training should:
 - _____a. Be anonymous so they are free to express their opinions.
 - b. Require trainees to put their names on them so you know who to talk to if you have questions about their responses.
- 8. When reviewing evaluations, it's best to look for ______ in the responses.
- 9. A trainer should always do a ______ following every training session and compare it with the trainees' evaluations.

• How to Handle Difficult Training Situations

Chapter_{Eight}

How to Handle Difficult Training Situations

Chapter Objectives

Deal effectively with these difficult training situations:

- What if the trainee falls back on old habits?
- What if the trainee still doesn't understand the task?
- What if you're stuck with a poor training environment?
- What if the trainee can't develop speed?
- What if the trainee doesn't take the training seriously?
- What if you don't have time to train?

E ven if you have an excellent training plan and follow the Four-Step Method, you still may have situations that hinder your on-the-job training efforts. Following are six "What if" questions and advice for handling some of the most common training-related problems.

How to Handle Difficult Training Situations

What If the Trainees Fall Back on Old Habits?

Effective training should change the trainees' behavior, as well as present and demonstrate the benefits of learning new tasks. However, sometimes trainees who have some background in the tasks are resistant to change. They will have a tendency to fall back on what they already know and have trouble learning a new system because the tasks are "something like" what they've done previously.

You Should . . .

Try to find out whether the trainees have experience with the tasks or have similar skills before beginning the training. During the training, you should explain what you want them to learn, how it is different from what they know, and why your approach is the one they have to use.

Address any questions or concerns they have about the new procedures. Always be sure that they understand why the tasks should be performed a certain way. Don't allow old habits to continue or to surface during training. Present and demonstrate the "right way" and ensure that trainees know that continuing old habits is counterproductive for both the trainees and the organization. Always be sure that trainees understand why tasks should be performed in a certain way.

What If the Trainees Still Don't Understand the Tasks?

You may think the trainees understand what you're telling them because they nod their heads frequently in an affirmative manner. Then, when it's time for them to practice the tasks, it is obvious that they don't know what to do. This can lead to feelings of frustration for the trainees and for you. If you allow this frustration to show, it can damage your relationship with the trainees.

You Should . . .

Accept the responsibility for helping the trainees learn the tasks.

Accept the responsibility for helping the trainees learn the tasks. Begin by going through the steps in reverse order from the way in which they were originally presented. At each point, verify that the trainees grasp what is being taught before you continue. If the trainees do not understand, take a short break. In certain situations, you should consider rescheduling the training. If this occurs, talk with the trainees' supervisors. The trainees may not be suited for the tasks. In that case, recommend that the trainees stop the training.

Before you make this decision, there are preventive measures for this situation.

- Ask questions to verify the trainees really do know what you're saying and aren't just nodding in agreement to please you or to avoid the embarrassment of not understanding.
- Involve the trainees in the presentation of the tasks.
- Have the trainees practice the tasks earlier in the training, rather than in the tryout.
- Ask the trainees opinions about how the training would be helpful on the job.

If you decide to discontinue the training, communicate the reason to the trainees in a supportive way. Emphasize that the trainees may be better suited for another task.

What If You're Stuck with a Poor Training Environment?

Trainers have to be resourceful. Many training environments are less than ideal, especially when giving on-the-job training. Dim lighting conditions, noisy surroundings, and people trying to perform their jobs can be distractions when you are trying to train.

You Should ...

Consider conducting the training in a different place. Do you have to be "on-the-job?" Could you move out of the distracting environment and simulate the workplace in a neutral space without too much expense?

Also consider conducting the training at a different time. Are there "slow" periods during the day that would make it easier for trainees to focus on the training? Can the training be postponed? The training could be offered before or after regular work hours when there will be less confusion and less concern that trainees are "missing work."

Can you get someone to assist you? If you are training a group, another person may be able to train part of the group so you don't have too many people in one place at one time. An employee who has completed the training successfully could assist. That person would be a good example for the trainees. Could you move out of the distracting environment and simulate the workplace in a neutral space without too much expense?

What If the Trainees Can't Develop Speed?

It's important that you perform the task at the required speed during the demonstration. This makes the trainees aware of the standards.

Most trainees will try to develop speed before they understand the process involved in performing the task correctly. However, you may have a trainee who just can't develop the necessary speed. This can become frustrating to the trainee, the trainer, and other employees.

You Should . . .

Slow down your demonstration so the trainees can see the task performed correctly. Slow down your demonstration so the trainees can see the task performed correctly. Perhaps it was too fast for them. Also, be sure that the trainees have the opportunity to practice the task in a controlled environment. Don't throw the trainees into "live" situations before they are ready.

When the trainees perform the task correctly, set time goals for achieving the desired productivity, and together, measure the trainees' progress against the goals. A trainee who cannot achieve the desired speed after a reasonable amount of time may not be physically capable of achieving the standards for the task. In this case, the trainee may have to be terminated or transferred. Before you recommend this "final" action, speak with the trainee's supervisor and explain the situation to be certain you have done everything you can to help the trainee be successful.

What If the Trainees Don't Take the Training Seriously?

Sometimes people are scheduled for training but are not told why they require the training. Other times, trainees do not think they need training. If trainees don't see the value in training, they can become disruptive in a group session. In a one-on-one situation, they may appear bored, uninterested, or even antagonistic. As long as they are unreceptive, you will have trouble teaching a new skill or process to them.

You Should ...

Find out whether the trainees know why they were sent to training. Do this in a private conversation. Don't confront or embarrass them in the presence of others. If the trainees do not know why they are in the session, review the learning objectives with them and compare these objectives to what they know about the task.

Even after you've done this, the trainees still may not agree that they require training. Before continuing, contact their supervisor and ask why they were scheduled. Should the response not seem valid, suggest that there by an alternative to the training. If trainees don't see the value in training, they can become disruptive in a group session.

What If You Don't Have Time to Train?

Training does take time. There's no way of getting around that. You need time to prepare, time to present and demonstrate, time to have the trainees try out the task, and time for the follow-up. By leaving out one of these steps, you'll reduce or possibly eliminate the value of the training. If you really don't have time to do it properly, you may have to cancel the training. Before you take that action, consider some of the following ideas.

You Should . . .

Admit that you need help and find other people to assist you with the training. Look for employees who have the "helper" qualities described on page 72 in Chapter 7. You'll be surprised at how many people will say, "Yes."

Once you have selected your helpers, give them the information and materials required for the training session. (You could start by having them read this book!) Then acquaint them with the specifics of the task they'll be training.

Next, decide whether you want the helpers to be involved in the whole training process or just selected parts. Some trainers prefer to do the presentation and demonstration themselves and then turn the trainees over to the assistants for the tryout and followup. This approach makes it easier to find helpers, since they don't have to do a presentation and demonstration.

If this sounds as though it's going to take time, you're right—at least in the beginning. In the long run, however, you'll save time by having this extra help.

Admit that you need help and find other people to assist you with the training.

How to Handle Difficult Training Situations

Self-Check: Chapter 8 Review

Answers to these questions appear on page 100.

1. True or False?

If trainees have trouble developing the required speed to perform a task, it could be because of the trainer's demonstration was too fast.

2. True or False?

Putting trainees in a "live" situation early on in the training can help them develop the necessary speed.

3. True or False?

Trainees may not take training seriously if they do not know why they have been sent to training.

4. True or False?

If there is no valid reason for a person being in the training, you should allow them to stay just in case they might learn something useful.

5. True or False?

Trainees may fall back on old habits if they have similar skills or have learned to perform the task you are teaching in a different way.

6. True or False?

One solution to a poor training environment may be to conduct the training at a different time.

7. True or False?

Using a simulated environment for training should only be considered as a last resort.

- 8. True or False? Finding "helpers" can solve the dilemma of not having enough time to train.
- 9. True or False? A helper can be assigned to teach any part of the training.
- 10. True or False?

A trainee who does not understand the task after you explain it probably has a bad attitude.

8

Chapter_{Nine}

Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training and Evaluation

Chapter Objectives



Assess your readiness to implement on-the-job training.

Develop a plan for implementing on-the-job training.

By now, you have a good idea about how to use the Four-Step Training Method to meet your on-the-job training needs. But perhaps you still have a few questions about how you should implement the training plan.

The self-assessment that follows will enable you to determine where you are in the implementation process and to identify areas that need to be reworked before you begin training. In addition to the assessment exercise, you'll find other tools in this chapter that will guide you through putting your plan into action for successful on-the-job training.

Self-Assessment for Implementing On-the-Job Training

The key principles of on-the-job training are summarized below. Evaluate your readiness to apply these principles to your training by rating yourself according to the scale below. Refer to the chapters listed in the parentheses for review in these areas. Also, use the tools following this self-assessment for more help.

Use the following scale to rate each statement:

5-Strongly Agree 4-Agree 3-Not Sure 2-Disagree 1-Strongly Disagree

I can describe the two purposes of training. (Chapter 1)

_____ I can explain the benefits of training. (Chapter 1)

- I can describe the Four-Step Training Method. (Chapter 2)
- I can define when the Four-Step Method should be used. (Chapter 2)
- I have specific criteria to use when selecting trainers. (Chapter 2)
 - I can write specific, measurable, realistic, and observable learning objectives. (Chapter 3)
- I can use the whole-part-whole approach when developing a training plan. (Chapter 3)
 - I am able to prepare myself and my employees for training. (Chapters 4 and 8)
 - I am able to prepare training materials and the training environment. (Chapters 4 and 8)
 - I am able to make an effective presentation for on-thejob training. (Chapter 5)
- I can apply the techniques needed to demonstrate a task properly to trainees. (Chapter 5)

Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training

- I have at least two ways to verify that trainees understand the tasks. (Chapter 5)
- I have a definite plan for having trainees practice new tasks during the tryout. (Chapter 6)
- I can reinforce positive actions by trainees through feedback. (Chapter 6)
- I can help trainees develop speed when learning new tasks. (Chapters 6 and 8)
- _____ I have a plan for doing follow-up. (Chapter 7)
- _____ I can evaluate the effectiveness of my training. (Chapter 7)

Review each of your responses again. A rating of 3 or below indicates an area requiring improvement before you implement on-the-job training. You also should determine whether there are ways to move your 4s to 5s.

Writing Learning Objectives

Good learning objectives are defined in terms of "doing words" to identify what the learner will be able to do after training. Here are some descriptive terms you can use when writing learning objectives. Practice writing a few sample learning objectives below:

identify	define	distinguish
sort	prioritize	alter
load	connect	transfer
select	list	describe
explain	calculate	compare
guide	monitor	convert
assign	find	mark
arrange	total	complete

Sample Learning Objectives:

Template for Preparing a Training Outline

This template should be used whenever you are developing an on-the-job training plan.

Training Outline Template

I. Preparation

A. After training, the participant(s) will be able to:

B. I will prepare myself physically and mentally by:

C. I will need the following materials:

D. I will prepare the training environment by:

Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training

E. I will prepare the trainee(s) by:

II. Presentation/Demonstration Outline

(Define your learning objectives using the whole-part-whole approach. Each objective should have a separate outline.)

III. Tryout

I will have the trainee(s) practice each of these tasks:

• Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training



Examples of Tryout and Follow-Up Checklists

Experienced trainers take different approaches to the tryout and follow-up steps. Some keep the two steps separate, while others prefer to have trainees perform them at the same time. Trainers also have combined the tryout with the presentation and demonstration. You should decide which method will work best for you. That decision may be determined by the task being trained.

Example 1: Combined Presentation/ Demonstration and Tryout

Directions: Check the space provided after presentation and demonstration are completed, and the trainee has practiced the task.

Task: Safety

- Why safety is important
- Use proper lifting procedures
- Wear proper safety gear
- Wear eye protection at all times
- Safe handling of hazardous materials
- Read material safety data sheets

Presentation/Demonstration and Tryout have been completed.

Date Completed: _

Example 2: Combined Tryout and Follow-Up

Directions: Check the space provided when the trainee practices the task and when you finish the follow-up.

Task: Safety

		Tryout	Follow-Up
٠	Why safety is important		
٠	Use proper lifting procedures		
٠	Wear proper safety gear		
٠	Wear eye protection at all times		
•	Safe handling of hazardous materials		
٠	Read material safety data sheets		
	Tryout and Follow-	up have been	completed.
Da	ate Completed:		



Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training

Example 3: Separate Tryout and Follow-Up

Tryout

Check the space provided when the trainee tries out each task listed below:

Task: Safety

- Why safety is important
- Use proper lifting procedures
- Wear proper safety gear
- Wear eye protection at all times
- Safe handling of hazardous materials
- Read material safety data sheets

Follow-Up

When the trainee has met the safety standards, trainer and trainee should sign a statement such as the one below:

The signatures below indicate that the trainee has satisfactorily completed the training outlined above according to standards established by the trainer and the company.

 Employee Signature	Date
Trainer Signature	Date

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Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training

Sample Form for Trainee's Evaluation of Training Session

Use the form below to get feedback from the trainees about your on-the-job training:

Trainee's Evaluation

Training Session Attended:

Use the following scale to rate each statement: 5-Strongly Agree 4-Agree 3-Not Sure 2-Disagree 1-Strongly Disagree

_____ The trainer was prepared.

- _____ The material was well-organized.
- _____ The handouts were helpful.
 - _ The trainer had a thorough knowledge of the subject.
 - _ The trainer explained and demonstrated the task, so it was easy to understand.
 - _ The trainer allowed enough time for questions after each step.

The trainer maintained my interest.

I was given a chance to practice the task in a nonthreatening atmosphere.

Someone was available to answer questions after training.

I learned to perform the task properly.

Tools for Implementing On-the-Job Training •

Did you find the training valuable? Why or why not?

What suggestions do you have for improving the training?

9

Answers to Chapter Exercises

Chapter 1

Statements 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 are True. Statements 4, and 7 are False.

- 8. a. Time restraints
 - b. Line management training responsibility
 - c. Cost considerations
 - d. Realistic setting

Chapter 2

- 1. a. Specific
 - b. Measurable
 - c. Realisitic
 - d. Observable
- 2. Increase sales in 1998 by 5 percent over 1997.
- 3. a. Equipment and tools
 - b. Reference materials
 - c. Trainer's materials
 - d. Employee's materials
- 4. The first, second, and fourth statements are True.
- 5. Whole—Tell them what you're going to tell them. Part—Tell them.
 - Whole—Tell them what you told them.
- 6. False
- 7. The second and third statements are true
- 8. False

Answers to Chapter Exercises

Chapter 3

- 2. Presentation/Demonstration
 3. Tryout
- 2. Here are four:
 - a. It's easy to use.
 - b. It can be used on the job.
 - c. You don't have to be a training expert to use it.
 - d. You can develop your own outline.
- 3. Any five of the following are acceptable:
 - a. Good communication skills
 - b. Knowledge of the subject
 - c. On-the-job experience
 - d. Patience
 - e. Interest in having people learn
 - f. Respect of others
 - g. Sense of humor
- 4. First or initial
- 5. Positive focus

Chapter 4

Statements 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are True. Statements 3, 4, and 9 are False.

Chapter 5

- 1. Show and Tell
- 2. Learning objectives
- 3. Logical
- 4. Jargon and buzz words
- 5. 3 to 5 seconds
- 6. Beside the trainer

Answers to Chapter Exercises

- 7. Expected
- 8. "Yes" or "No"
- 9. Responsibility
- 10. False
- 11. False

Chapter 6

Statements 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 are True. Statements 2, 5, 7, 9, and 10 are False.

Chapter 7

- 1. Understand, additional training
- 2. Confidence
- 3. a. Observe
 - b. Provide feedback
 - c. Recognize their successes
 - d. Correct mistakes in a supportive manner
 - e. Step in when necessary
- 4. The trainer
- 5. Checklist
- 6. Presentation/demonstration
- 7. a. Be anonymous
- 8. Trends
- 9. Self-evaluation

Chapter 8

Statements 2, 4, 7, and 10 are False. Statements 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 are True.

Additional Resources

Additional Resources

Books

Broadwell, Martin M. *The Supervisor as an Instructor*. Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc., 1984.

Buckley, Roger and Jim Caple. *One-to-One Training and Coaching Skills*. San Diego, California: Pfeiffer & Company, 1991.

Mager, Robert F. What Every Manager Should Know About Training. Belmont, California: Lake Publishing Company, 1992.

Nilson, Carolyn. *Training for Non-Trainers*. New York: AMACOM, 1990.

Wexley, Kenneth M. and Gary P. Latham. *Developing and Training Human Resources in Organizations*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1991.

Zaccarelli, Brother Herman E., C.S.C. *Training Managers to Train.* Los Altos, California: Crisp Publications, Inc., 1988.

AudioCassette/Workbook Program

Cadwell, Charles M. *Developing an Employee Orientation and Training Program.* New York: American Management Association, 1990.