

Team and project working

Vince Lombardi (1913-1970), a legendary American football coach, defined teamwork as “the individual commitment to a group effort”, in other words the personal and firm engagement and investment of energies in order to achieve a common project or goal. All sports figures, generals and company leaders, in fact, agree on one thing: if a common goal is clear, working in synergy towards its achievement increases the chances of final success. Teamwork is an essential part of workplace success. Like a basketball team working together to set up the perfect shot, every team member has a specific role to play in accomplishing tasks on the job. Although it may seem as if one player scored the basket, that basket was made possible by many people’s planning, coordination, and cooperation to get that player the ball. Employers look for people who not only know how to work well with others, but who understand that not every player on the team can or will be the one who gets the ball. When everyone in the workplace works together to accomplish goals, everyone achieves more because of being part of a team:



- multiplies success → one plus one equals three, if people can work together. Best players do not win championships, but it is the team that works best together that accomplishes great things;
- makes the job easier → each member has his task and specializes in an area of the project he is more expert at and makes the team more effective as a result;
- maximizes strengths and reduces weaknesses → individual weaknesses can be minimized through the help and the strength of the rest of the team;
- makes work fun → ideas are shared, and mistakes, stress and anxiety are reduced;
- delegates → team leaders assign tasks to team members according to their abilities in order to be more efficient;
- supports → group members work and face difficult challenges together.



1 Read these quotes and invent your own personal quote on the importance of being part of a team.

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Henry Ford (pioneer of the assembly-line production method)

“It is amazing what can be accomplished when nobody cares about who gets the credit.”

Robert Yates (politician in the 1700s)

“Respect your fellow human being, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it.”

Bill Bradley (basketball player and Democratic US Senator from New Jersey)

“There is no such thing as a self-made man. You will reach your goals only with the help of others.”

George Shinn (owner of basketball team)

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller (American author, political activist, lecturer, and the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree)

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”

Michael Jordan (former American basketball player and businessman)