

Six Action Shoes

Planning for Action

Shoes are for action. This model looks at the different ways in which thinking can be put into action. As an exercise, Six Action Shoes can be used to help students talk about the types of action they take as a result of their thinking. It can also serve as a simple and humorous tool for analysing others. Two different shoes can be 'worn' at the same time – which can create powerful combinations! Six Action Shoes is an Edward de Bono creation.

navy formal shoes

Navy blue is the colour of many uniforms, and so suggests formality. Therefore, this shoe is associated with drills, routines and known sequences. Safety depends on such formal procedures which are known by many.

Let's stick to what we know.



grey sneakers

Grey suggests the grey cells of the brain. Yet, it also brings to mind fog, mist and the difficulty of seeing clearly. Sneakers represent exploration, investigation and the collection of evidence. These sneakers, therefore, are about foraging for new information.

What can we find out?



brown brogues

Brown is a practical colour. It represents earth and mud, which are rough, messy and not clearly defined. Brogues are, traditionally, hard wearing and tough. So, these shoes are for practical, sensible and flexible initiatives – totally unlike the navy formal shoes.

Let's consider all the options.



orange gumboots

Orange is the colour of danger, attention and warning. The gumboot is used by firefighters and rescue workers. Its combination is perfectly suited to such emergency activities where safety is the primary concern.

What's the safest way to proceed?



pink slippers

Pink strongly suggests warmth and comfort. This conventionally feminine colour is related to the home, domesticity and tenderness. It is a gentle colour. Pink slippers are about care, compassion and attention to human feelings.

How do you feel about this?



purple riding boots

Purple was the colour of Imperial Rome and is about authority. Riding boots are worn when on horseback. Purple riding boots combine to create a sense of enacting a role, whether by virtue or high position. Leadership, therefore, features.

Let me take charge of this.

