

EXERCISE Whodunnit

Purpose Have students experience the limits of their perceptions and how easily & frequently they miss things.

Recommended for: Trail 10 Reality Phase Path

Time required 10-15 minutes

Key Points

We fail to notice a great deal of the world around us

There are a number of strategies we can use overcome this deficit.

Be intensely curious.

Have more than one person observe the situation and compare observations.

Anticipate what to look for, but engaging your imagination to invent hypotheses, questions and hunches.

Reference Chabris, Christopher and Simons, Daniel, *The Invisible Gorilla, and other ways our intuitions deceive us*, [Book]- New York : Crown Publishers, 2010

Model Script Who knows what a “continuity error” is when you watch a movie?

A continuity error is when something changes in the middle of a scene, like suddenly a plate or glass that was sitting in front of someone is suddenly gone when the camera angle changes. Or when someone is wearing an article of clothing and then not wearing it in the same scene. It happens because when movies are made, the same scene is shot multiple times from different camera angles and edited together later. Sometimes, something is moved or changed and the director and editors don't notice it.

Nearly every movie made has continuity errors in it somewhere if you look carefully for them—and some people do. To minimize this, there is usually someone on the set whenever a movie is being filmed. Their job is to keep track of all those little things and make sure everything stays consistent.

I'm going to show you a brief segment and I want you see if you can find continuity errors.



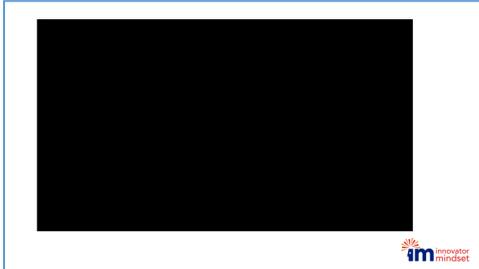
Play Whodunnit 1

Instructions Ask students: How many of you saw at least one continuity error? Two? Three? and so on...

Then ask students to identify those errors. What did anyone see?

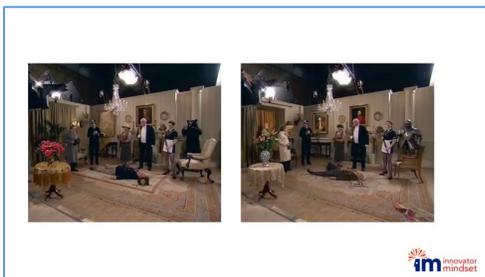
Keep a running count of how many different ones someone saw. You can list them if you like.

[Most students will have noticed no more than a few, and the class as a whole is unlikely to spot more than perhaps a dozen. There are actually 21, but don't say that yet.]



Play Whodunnit 2

If they have not seen this before, students will be amazed at how many changes occurred that they did not notice.



Show side-by-side stills of before and after the changes

Now all those unnoticed changes become obvious.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Why do you think you missed so many of the changes—when you knew to expect them?

It is actually quite difficult to notice all that is going on around us, even things that are happening in plain sight. At any given time, we detect only a fraction of all the sensory input coming at us, and reconstruct the rest on our head.

- 2) What can you do about it? [This may stump most students, so you might have to make some suggestions.]
- 3) Would it help to have more than one person look and compare what you saw? (Yes, different people will notice different things.)

- 4) Would it have helped if I had told you to watch something specific, like, “Be sure to notice what the butler is holding, or watch the flowers on the table.” (Yes, that provides more focus.)

Being imaginative is actually an excellent observation strategy. Trying to anticipate what will be important so you can look for it. This is what skilled investigators do. They form hunches and scenarios (hypotheses) that direct their attention to things they might not otherwise notice.

- 5) What does integrity have to do with this?

Integrity is crucial. When we allow our hopes and expectations to shape what we observe, we fall into confirmation bias and develop blind spots. We in effect corrupt the data.

- 6) What does this have to do with innovation or entrepreneurship?

Lots! We need to be aware of our customers’ wants and needs, aware of what competitors are doing, aware of changing technology, etc. Awareness is what enables us to develop empathy. We also need self-awareness, which is what understanding your mindset is about.

If you place the Whodunnit video in a folder labeled *IM Videos* on your desktop, it should play through the PowerPoint slides. If this doesn’t work, you will need to reload/reconnect the videos to play them within PowerPoint.

The Whodunnit video clips and images are included here as a convenience for instructors. They are not being sold by Innovator Mindset and anyone can obtain this video online, where it has been viewed by millions.

There are many other examples of gaps in our awareness that can be found online.