

## Tears in my Eyes

A. *When the team enters the room, tell them this is a verbal problem*

B. Judge Reads to Teams:

1. You will have 1 **minute** to **think** and 3 **minutes** to respond. You may ask questions during your **think** time: however, time **continues**. No other **talking** is allowed.
2. You will receive 1 **point** for each common response. Highly creative or humorous responses will receive 5 **points**. This will be the subjective **opinion** of the judges and the judge's decision is **final**.
3. Your team is to take turns **in** sequence. You may not skip your turn, or repeat, or pass. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
4. Once time **begins**, it will not be stopped. If the judge asks you to repeat a response, or to clarify it, or to give a more appropriate response, it counts **against** your time. Speak loudly and clearly.
5. Your problem is to name **things** that are found "**In**" or "**Inside**" something. Example: I had tears **in** my eyes from laughing so hard. Your response must have the word "**in**" **in** your response. (Repeat Number 5)

Creative responses could be:

The letter B can be found **in** the alphabet.

The word "**in**" can be found in the word **Mind**.

I am **in** deep thought

I am **in** way over my head.

Sometimes I am really **in** the mood for Ice Cream

I had the **inside** scoop to the news story

Your responses were cracking me up on the **inside**.

I could not tell if it was **inside** out or outside **in**.

**Coaches: Don't settle for responses like "I was sitting in the house" or "There is water in my bottle" unless they team is really stuck for an answer.**

To get the team to respond creatively, give each member 5 marshmallows each. Give them three minutes to respond, but then also tell them they must eat a marshmallow only when they give a creative response and the goal is to eat all their marshmallows. Count up the remaining marshmallows after the three-minute response time. (Hopefully the marshmallows will force them too slow down and think. Let me know how this worked out.) Substitute crackers if you like, but I also tend to give the kids the sugar high to get the creative juices flowing.

This spontaneous problem was drafted for my Odyssey of the Mind friends in British Columbia, Canada. Thanks for visiting the site and emailing me with your comments. Glad to hear about the exciting things happening there in Odyssey of the Mind. You ROCK B.C.! Hope to see you at World Finals. Sunny Florida.