

**Get to the  
root cause  
of problems  
fast**

# 'Why' Tree



## What can it help with?

Inspired by Taiichi Ohnos' "5 Whys" this tool helps you to quickly get to the root causes of problems. By the end you'll have sorted between symptoms of the problem (which are often mistaken for the problem itself) and have a clearer picture of what you need address.


## How do I use it?

Start by plotting what you think the problem is and ask yourself 'Why', writing the answer underneath. Look at the answer, then ask yourself why again, working down through the bands until you've reached the root cause. You can use different strands to identify different elements to the problem which may have their own root causes.

## Who's it for?

-  We think most things work best in a group, but you can do it individually too.
-  Sometimes it's interesting for everyone in the group to work alone then come together to compare and combine ideas.



## How long will it take?

 15-30 Minutes

## How hard is it?

Beginner

## What goes well with it?

-  Everything!
-  Plus, we'd always recommend you try the Assumption Dump before starting any project 😊



# 'Why' Tree



03 SYMPTOMS

01 PROBLEM  
Describe the problem

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

02 ROOT CAUSE

Reference: Taiichi Ohno

