

# How to use the SCAMPER technique

SCAMPER is an acronym which stands for questions relating to the following:

<b>S</b>	<b>Substitute</b>	Think about substituting part of your product/process for something else. By looking for something to substitute you can often come up with new ideas.
		Typical questions: What can I substitute to make an improvement? What if I swap this for that and see what happens? How can I substitute the place, time, materials or people?
<b>C</b>	<b>Combine</b>	Think about combining two or more parts of your probortunity to achieve a different product/process or to enhance synergy.
		Typical questions: What materials, features, processes, people, products or components can I combine? Where can I build synergy?
<b>A</b>	<b>Adapt</b>	Think about which parts of the product/process could be adapted to remove the probortunity or think how you could change the nature of the product/process.
		Typical questions: What part of the product could I change? And in exchange for what? What if I were to change the characteristics of a component?
<b>M</b>	<b>Modify/distort</b>	Think about changing part or all of the current situation, or to distort it in an unusual way. By forcing yourself to come up with new ways of working, you are often prompted into an alternative product/process.
		Typical questions: What happens if I warp or exaggerate a feature or component? What will happen if I modify the process in some way?



<b>P</b>	<b>Put to other purposes</b>	Think of how you might be able to put your current solution/ product/process to other purposes, or think of what you could reuse from somewhere else in order to solve your own probortunity. You might think of another way of solving your own probortunity or finding another market for your product.
		Typical questions: What other market could I use this product in? Who or what else might be able to use it?
<b>E</b>	<b>Eliminate</b>	Think of what might happen if you eliminated various parts of the product/process/probortunity and consider what you might do in that situation. This often leads you to consider different ways of tackling the probortunity.
		Typical questions: What would happen if I removed a component or part of it? How else would I achieve the solution without the normal way of doing it?
<b>R</b>	<div> Rearrange /Reverse Rearrange </div>	Think of what you would do if part of your probortunity/product/process worked in reverse or done in a different order. What would you do if you had to do it in reverse? You can use this to see your probortunity from different angles and come up with new ideas.
		Typical questions: What if I did it the other way round? What if I reverse the order it is done or the way it is used? How would I achieve the opposite effect?

In essence you should ask yourself questions relating to each of the SCAMPER words to come up with new ideas. Spend some time developing questions which challenge your current way of thinking.

Here is a simple brainstorming method called S.C.A.M.P.E.R. Each letter stands for a way to use your idea to get more ideas.

- **S (Substitute):** "What can I substitute in my idea?"
- **C (Combine):** "How can I combine my idea with something else to make a different idea?"
- **A (Alter):** "What can I change in my idea to make another idea?"
- **M (Magnify or Minimize):** "What can I make bigger or what can I make smaller?"
- **P (Put to Other Uses):** "How can I put my idea to other uses?"
- **E (Eliminate):** "What can I get rid of or simplify in my idea?"
- **R (Rearrange):** "How can I change, reorder or reverse the way my idea happens?"

you can watch a short videos from Youtube on using a lasagna noodle as the idea and then going through S.C.A.M.P.E.R to create more ideas. The links are:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue5sGtGb\\_i0&feature=relate](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue5sGtGb_i0&feature=relate)

<http://people.bethel.edu/~shenkel/PhysicalActivities/CreativeMovement/CreativeThinking/Scamp.html>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue5sGtGb\\_i0&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue5sGtGb_i0&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yM9DrSpBIE>