

Using illusions and perception activities in online training

A practical guide for creating short, engaging learning moments



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Why use a short illusion in online training?

A simple activity can create big learning opportunities



 | **The illusion is the opener. The debrief creates the learning.**



The basic design sequence

A simple structure for online illusion and perception activities



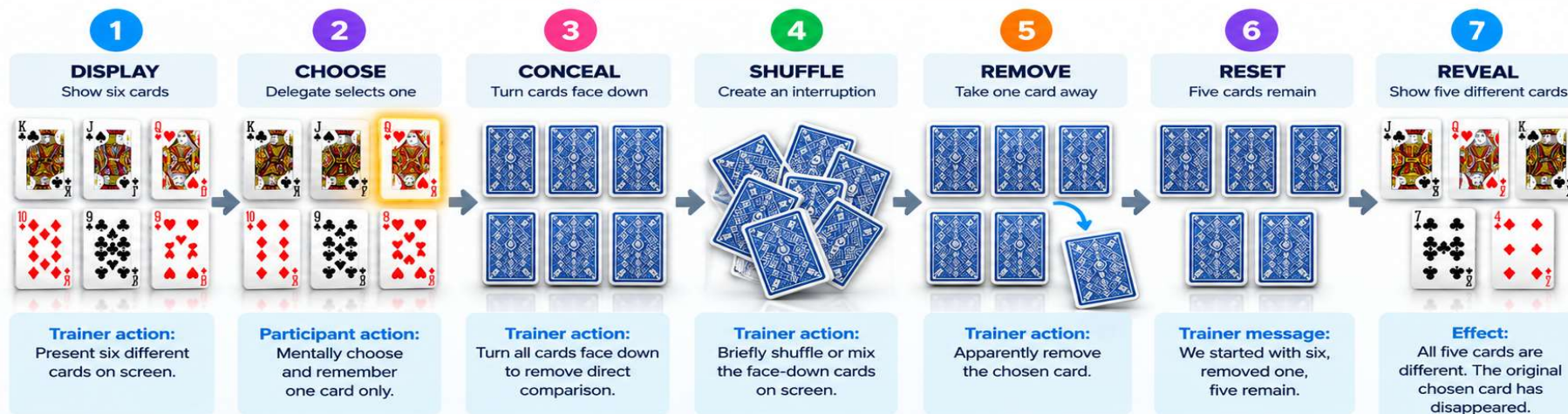
| A short illusion captures attention. A structured debrief turns it into a valuable learning opportunity.





Example: The disappearing card

How a simple online illusion can be structured



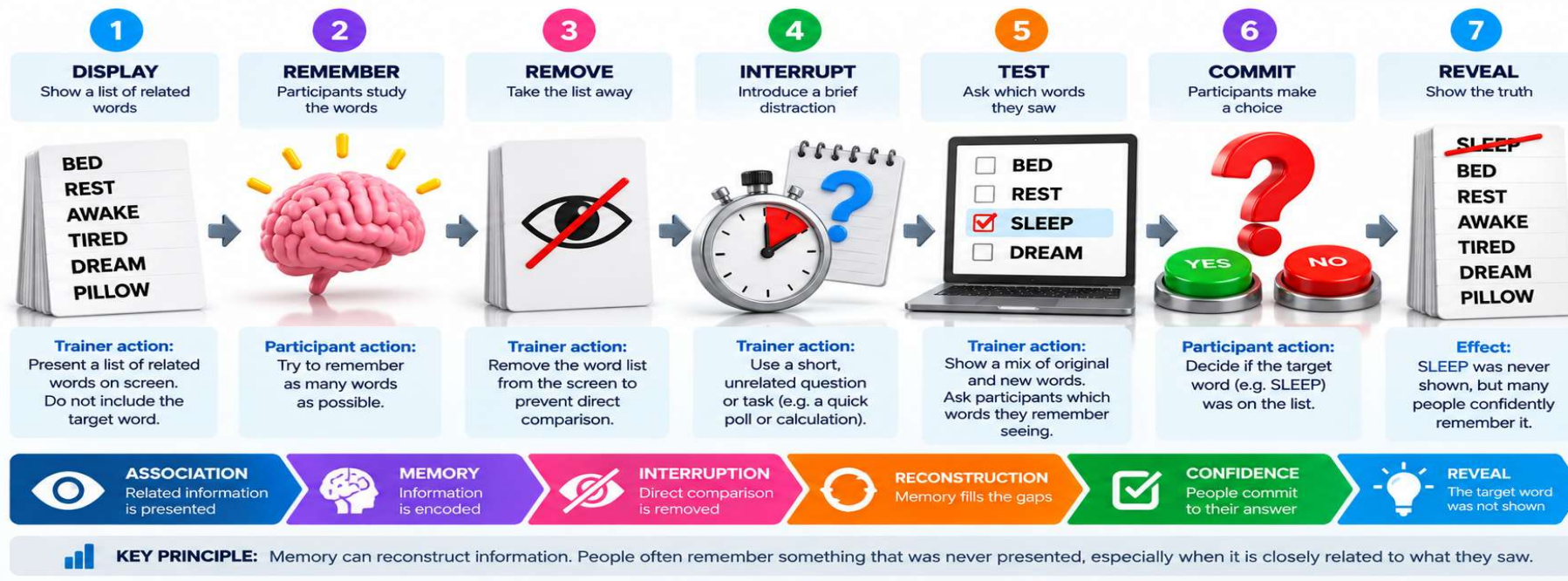
KEY PRINCIPLE: The participant focuses on one detail. The interruption prevents direct comparison. The reveal exploits what they expected to remain unchanged.



Example: The word that wasn't there

How a memory illusion can be structured

INSTRUCTOR EXAMPLE
NOT A PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY



For professional discussion and reflection • Illustrative, not exhaustive • Activities should be adapted to the audience and learning context • Apply alongside appropriate organisational evidence, risk and decision-making processes



Example: Spot the change

How a change-blindness activity can be structured

INSTRUCTOR EXAMPLE
NOT A PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY

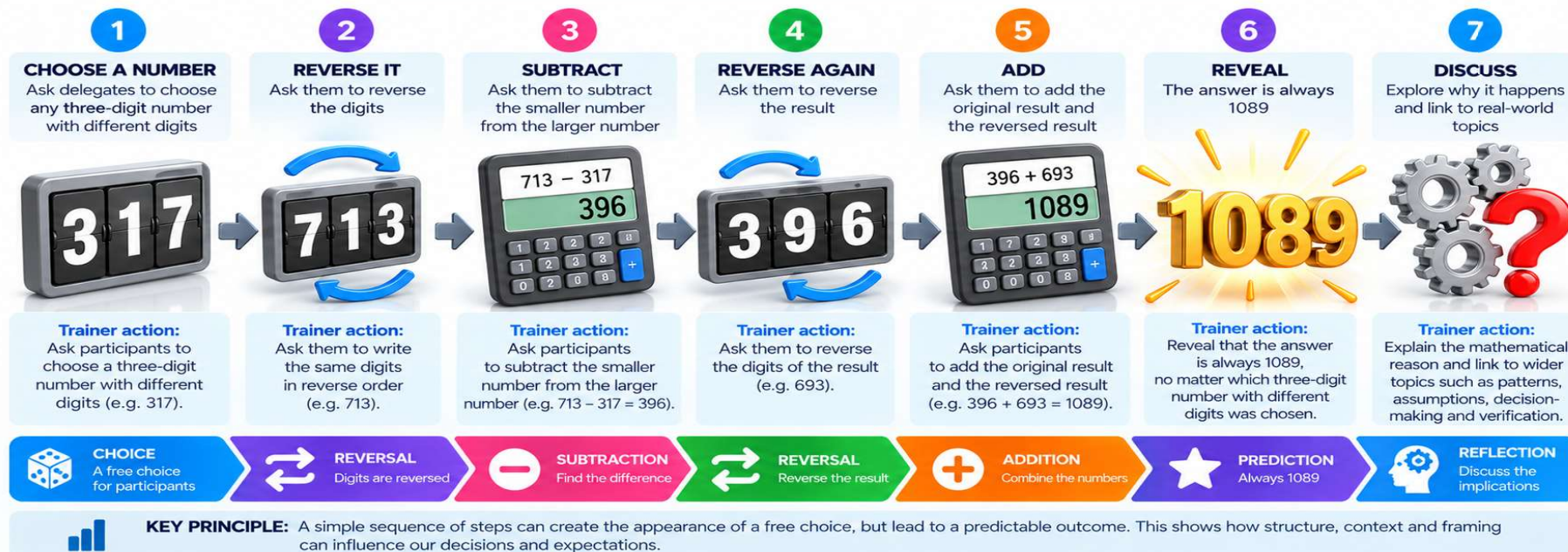




Example: The 1089 prediction

How a mathematical illusion can be structured

INSTRUCTOR EXAMPLE
NOT A PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY

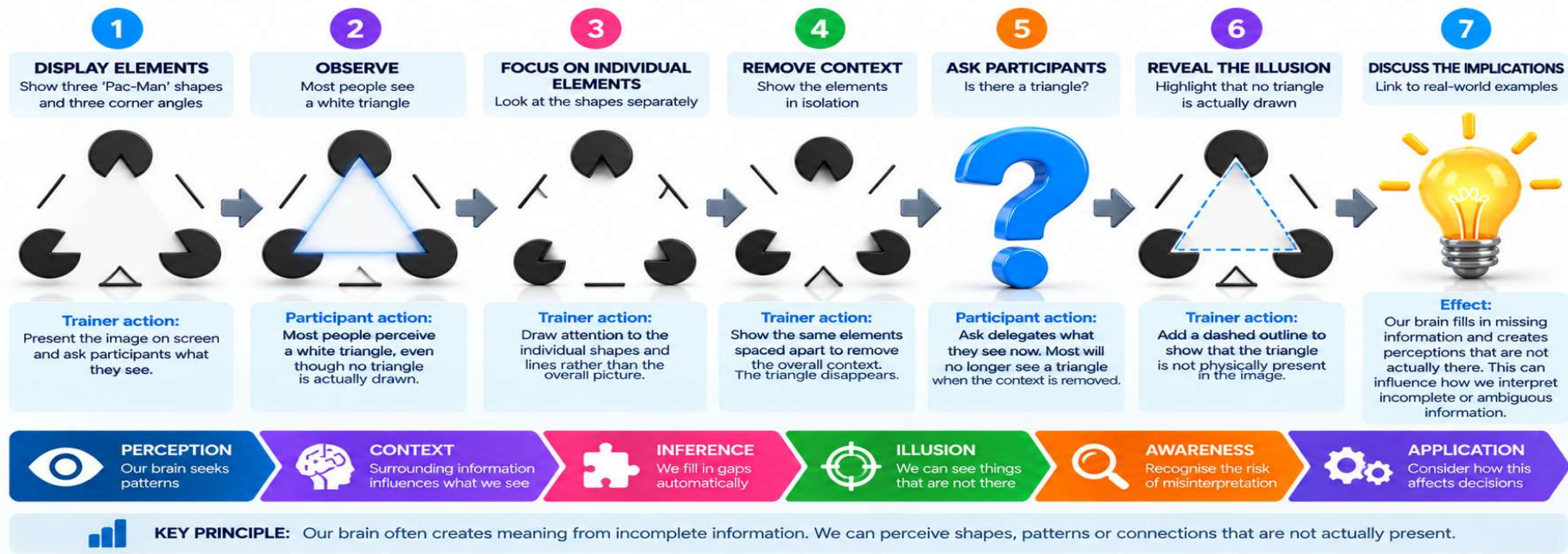


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Example: Seeing what isn't there

How the Kanizsa Triangle illusion can be structured



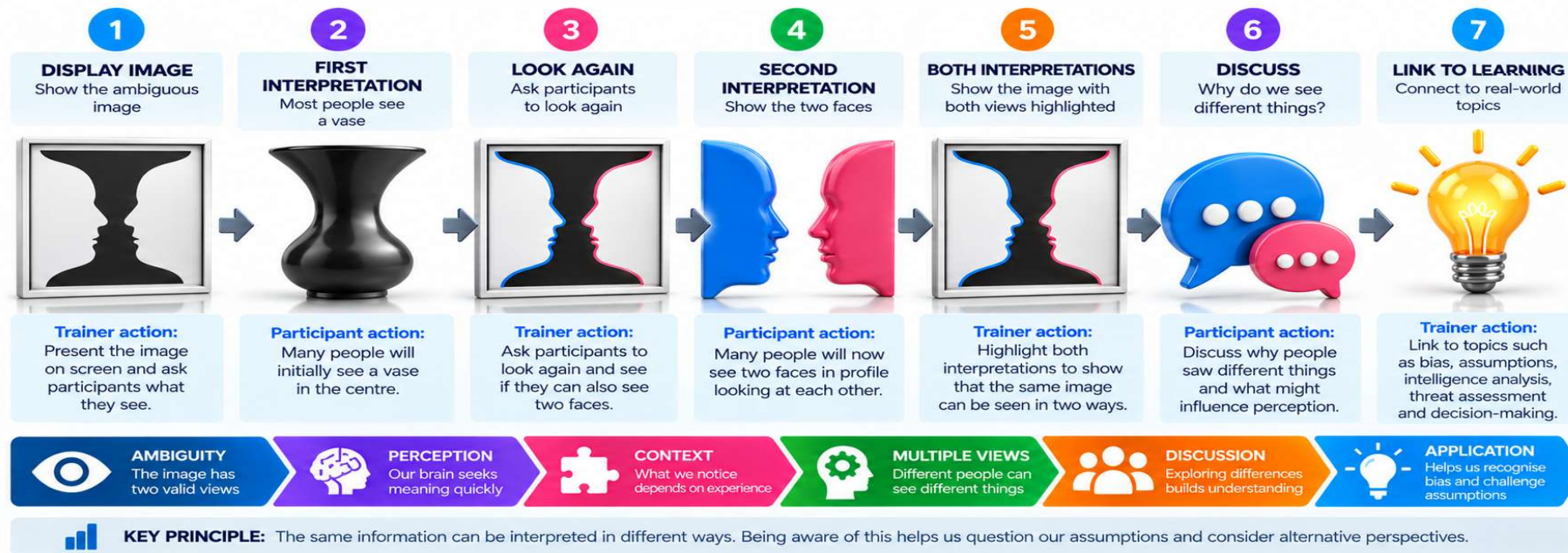
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Example: Two views of the same information

How a simple image can be interpreted in different ways

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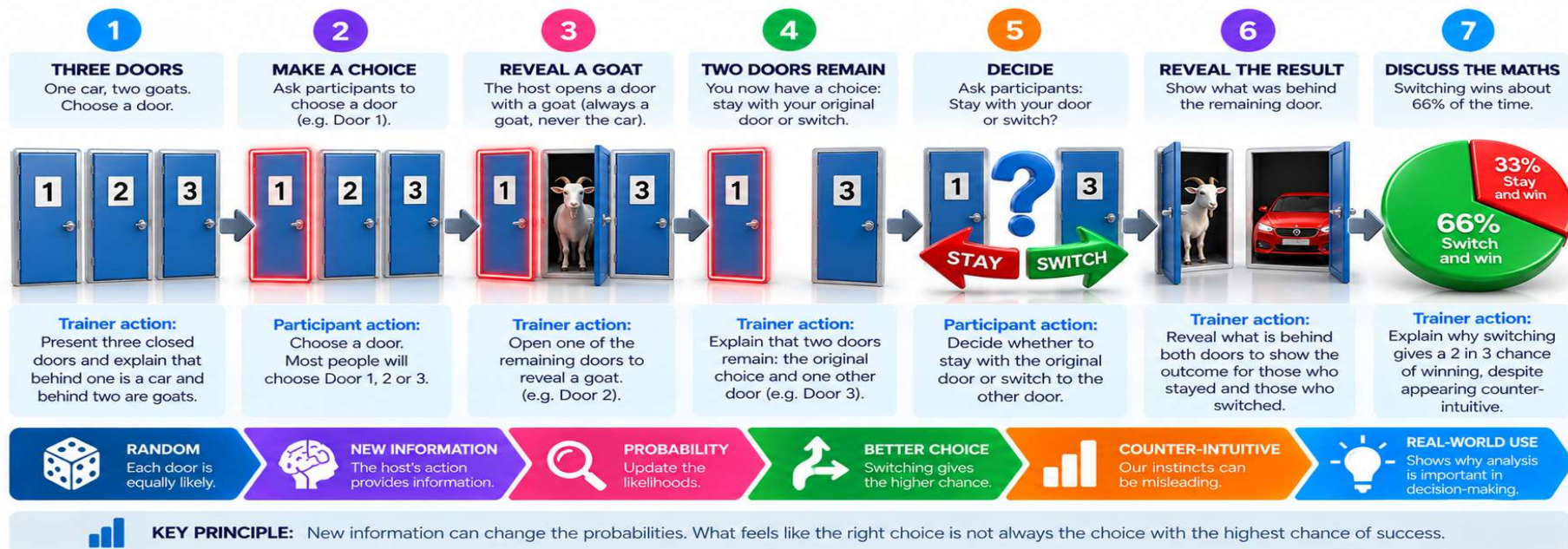


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Example: The Monty Hall problem

How probability can lead to counter-intuitive results

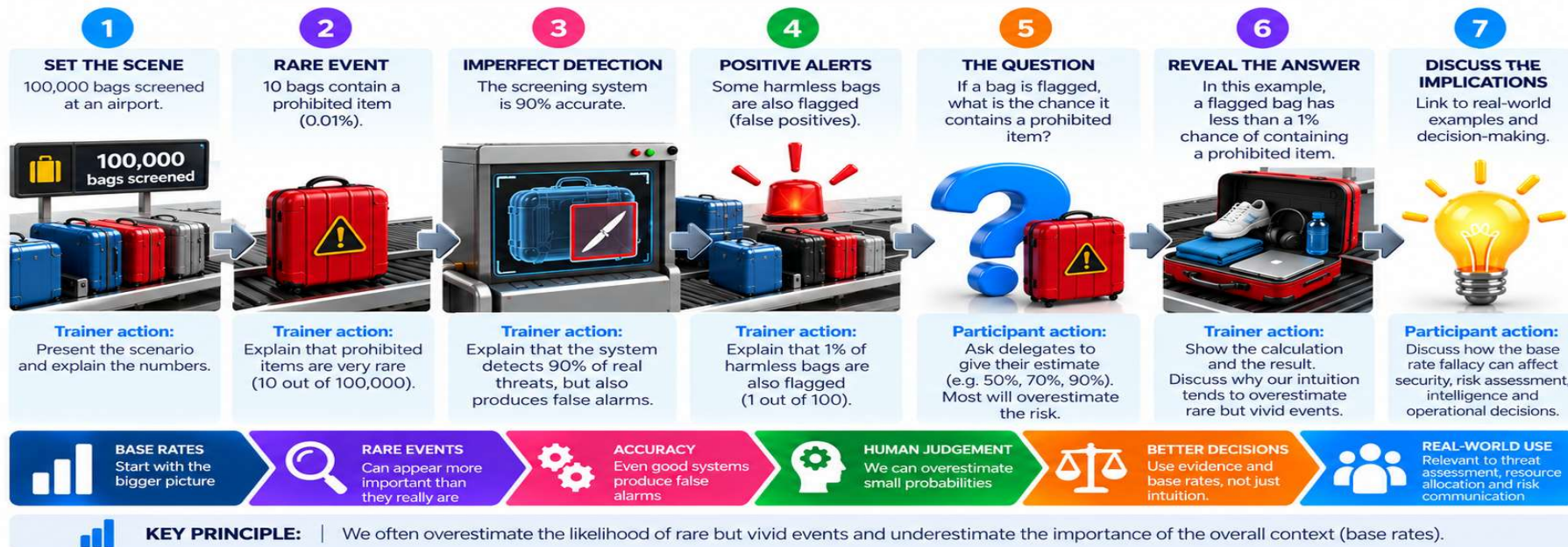


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Example: The base rate fallacy

How our intuition can be influenced by rare but vivid events

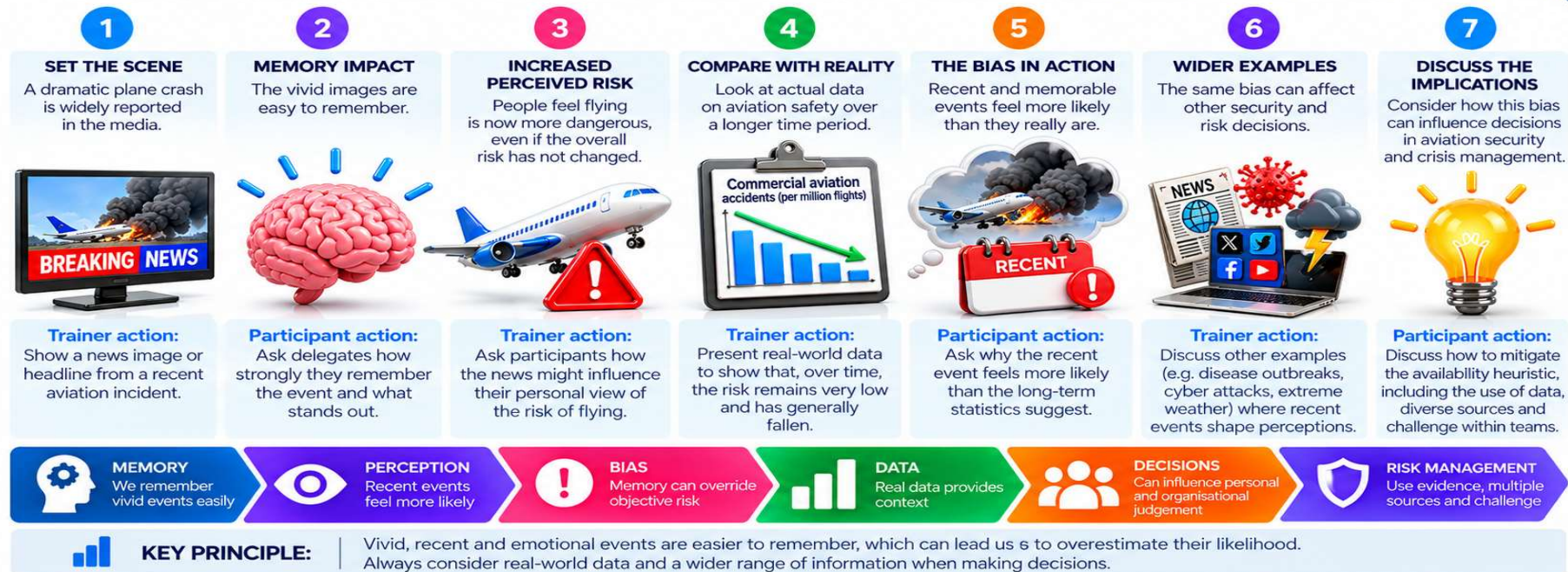




Example: The availability heuristic

How recent and memorable events can distort our perception

INSTRUCTOR EXAMPLE
NOT A PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY





Example: Confirmation bias

How we tend to notice and remember information that supports our existing beliefs





Practical tips for avoiding cognitive bias

Simple actions to make better and more balanced decisions



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