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To attend - To participate

To attend: To be there, to wait/spend time for something.

To participate: To be active in something, to perform, to do something.

- We attended the meeting, even though we said nothing.
- You will find a car-park attendant there.
- How many participants are there in the competition.
- Everyone can attend, but only a few participate.

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Why You Should Attend a Conference in Your Field

Many people think that joining an organization is enough, but to capitalize on the return on your investment you need to be engaged and participate in the meetings.

Medical researchers and doctors are busy, so the thought of taking a few days away from work to participate in a conference, convention or seminar can seem like a waste of time. However, these live meetings might be just what you need to uncover new ways to grow in your field.

The value in meetings comes from the human-to-human connections that occur. Often people cite the serendipitous “hallway conversations” that they have with other attendees as the most valuable parts of attending an event. While these are not on the agenda, or mentioned in the breakout sessions learning objectives, when two or more people begin to discuss topics on a deeper and personal level, the success of the event to those involved becomes irreplaceable.

Vocabulary

Attendance

Attendee

Participation

Attendancy

Participant