

Handling hazardous substances: occupational hygiene measures

Training tool for safety instructions



Notes

Topic:

This safety instruction points out some important aspects for the safe handling of hazardous substances which may endanger health. In particular, the lessons describe basic occupational hygiene measures and complement the safety instructions on the topic of "Handling hazardous substances". In some cases, basic measures may be not enough at the workplace. Then the necessary additional measures should be explained as well.

To prevent hazardous substances from being absorbed by skin contact or by food consumption, hands must be washed frequently. If the company has its own safety requirements, they should be explained (lesson 1).

In order not to bring hazardous substances in contact with personal clothing, separate areas shall be used (lesson 2).

Getting in contact with hazardous substances is possible when using mobile phones, when adjusting the glasses and when putting on and taking off protective gloves and masks (lesson 3). This may be a topic of a practical training session.

Also important: Dispose of cleaning rags or similar cleaning material immediately after use. For flammable liquids such as paint removers or tints, pay attention to possible self-ignition: do not throw in open garbage bins (lesson 4). Correct disposal holds true for stained PPE as well.

During cleaning, hazardous substances may be stirred up by blowing or sweeping and thus get into the breathing air (lesson 5). Instructions for cleaning dust deposits and different types of filters for industrial vacuum cleaners may be explained.

For some more information, e. g. the explanation of the pictograms that identify hazardous substances, have a look at the [issa chemistry media shop](#).

Method:

This training tool is not to be used for E-learning. The set of slides is intended to assist managers for the personal instruction of employees and to start an open discussion on the topic of occupational safety.

Text and images included in the lessons provide information on which aspects are most important to the topic. Using this as a basis, discussions should be held on whether and where similar issues occur at the company in question, which specific technical and organisational measures are already in place, and which solutions could improve the situation. Safety instructions can thus be used not just to fulfil legal requirements but also as a tool for promoting ongoing improvement within the company.

Analysing thematically related events and "near misses" at the company (or other incidents known of from literature) can help the staff involved become aware of the relevance of the topic and thus encourage safety-conscious conduct for the long term. This may require further preparation and/or research.

Also included is a picture that can be used to check what has been learned. This can be carried out either with the whole group straight after the training session using the solution slides, as an independent follow-up activity with the solutions revealed at a later stage, or as part of an in-house (safety-themed) event, possibly with prizes.

The content of the safety courses is always focused on the staff involved. They therefore do not include information on measures to be undertaken by the employer.



Lesson 1

Wash hands regularly

- Always wash hands before eating and after work
- Wash hands additionally during work according to instructions
- Use skin care products according to the skin protection plan
- Use abrasive cleaning agents only if really necessary
- Never use dirty rags for hand cleaning
- No eating and drinking at the workplace





Lesson 2

Private and work: two separate areas, also for clothing

- Keep private and occupational clothes separate in the lockers
- Don't take occupational clothes and personal protective equipment to social rooms
- Don't clean occupational clothes at home: this is the employer's responsibility
- Check occupational clothes and personal protective equipment prior to use





Lesson 3

Don't carry hazardous substances from one point to another

Remember that hazardous substances may be on your fingers or on your clothing:

- No mobile phones at the work place
- Be careful when putting on glasses
- Be careful when taking off gloves
- Don't put gloves in the helmet
- Don't shake or blow off dusty clothing
- Immediately change contaminated clothing



Lesson 4

Keep workplace clean and tidy

- Dispose cleaning rags properly immediately after use
- Dispose empty packages safely
- Note cleaning instructions for the workspace





Lesson 5

Avoid generating dust

- Don't crumple up bags and sacks – fold them
- Don't blow off dusty clothing and work areas with compressed air
- Don't sweep floors with a broom: clean in required manner, preferably wet or with industrial vacuum cleaner





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INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION

Section on Prevention in the Chemical Industry

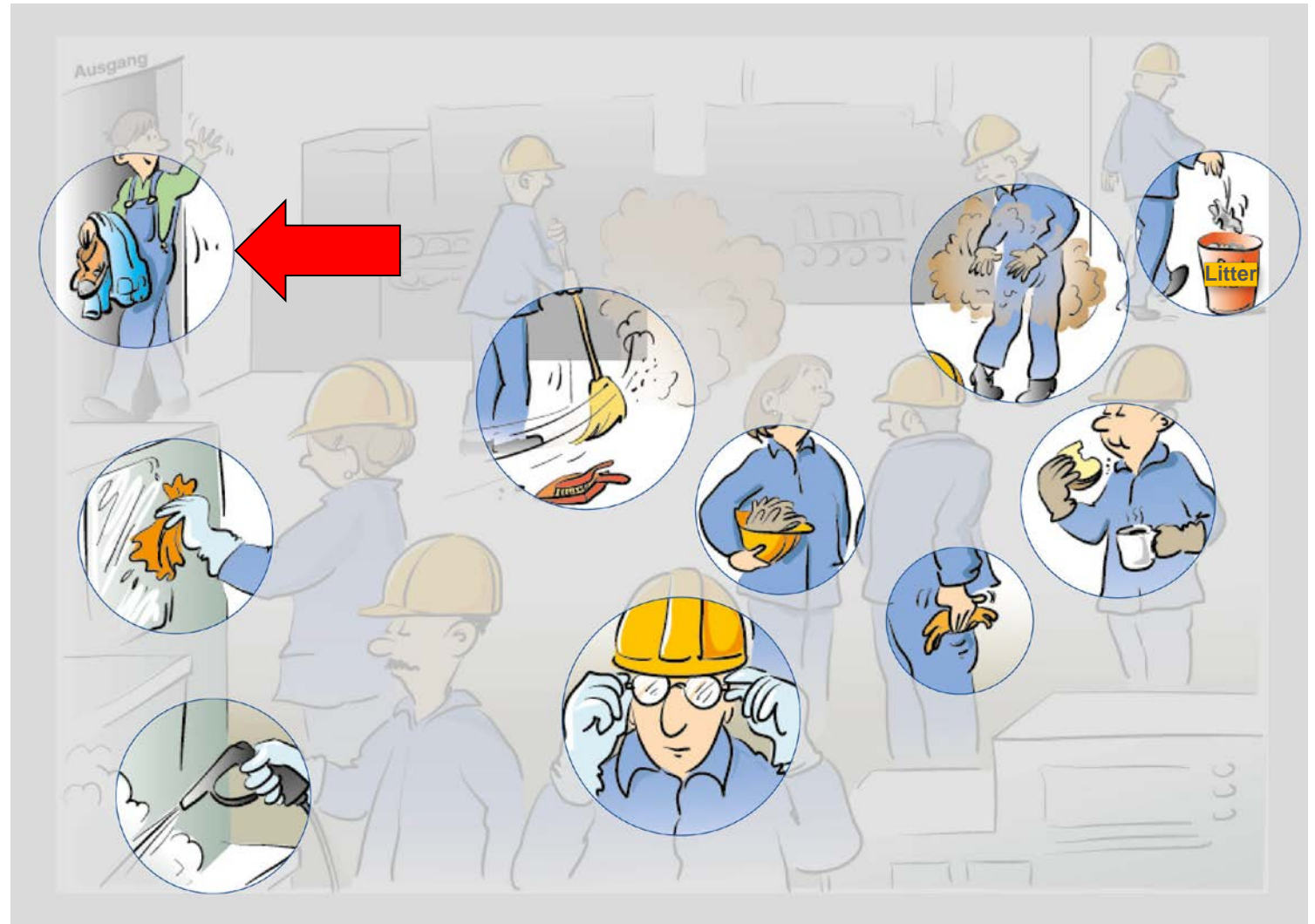
What's wrong? Find the ten mistakes





Mistake 1

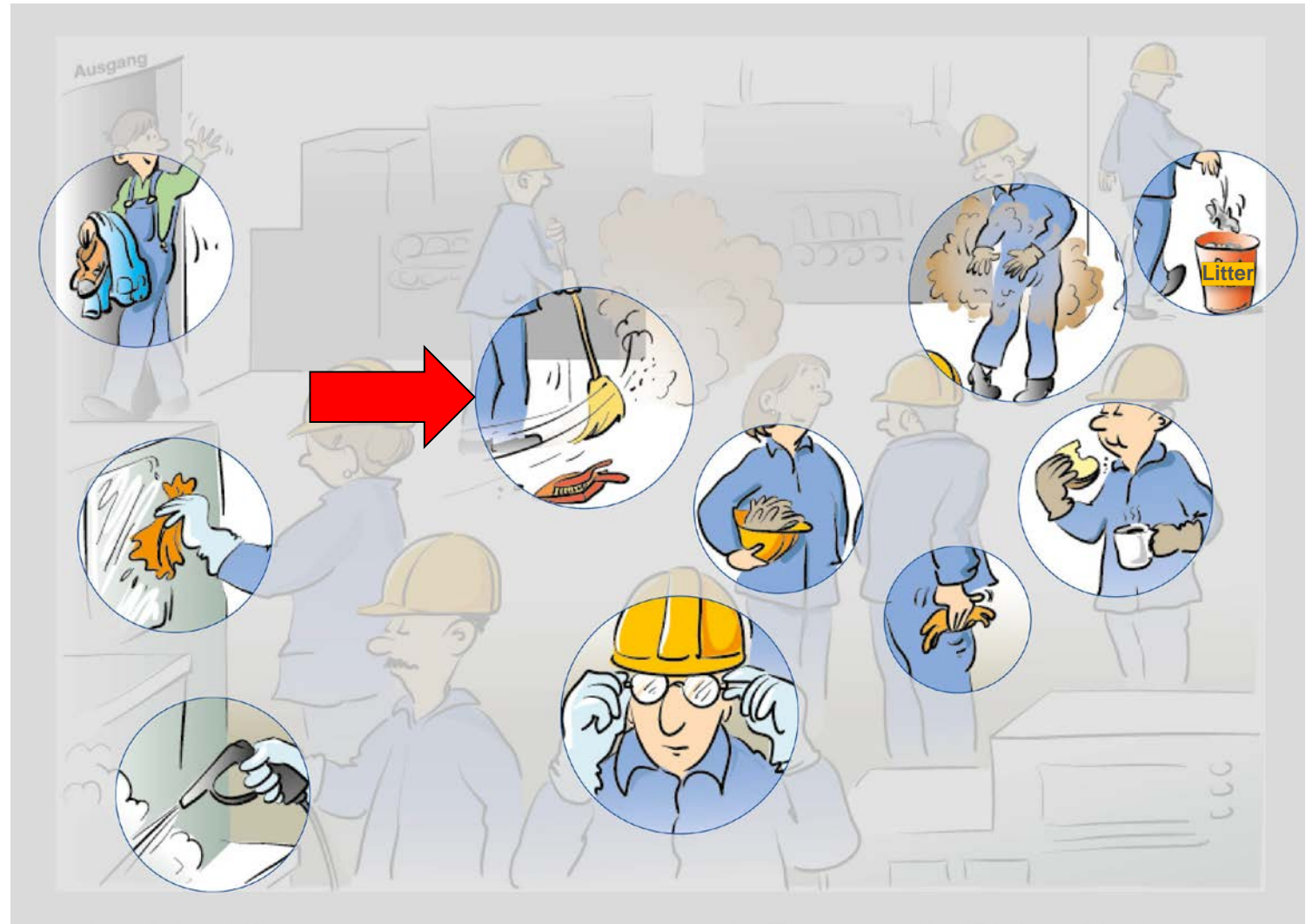
Leaving with work clothes on and taking work clothes home





Mistake 2

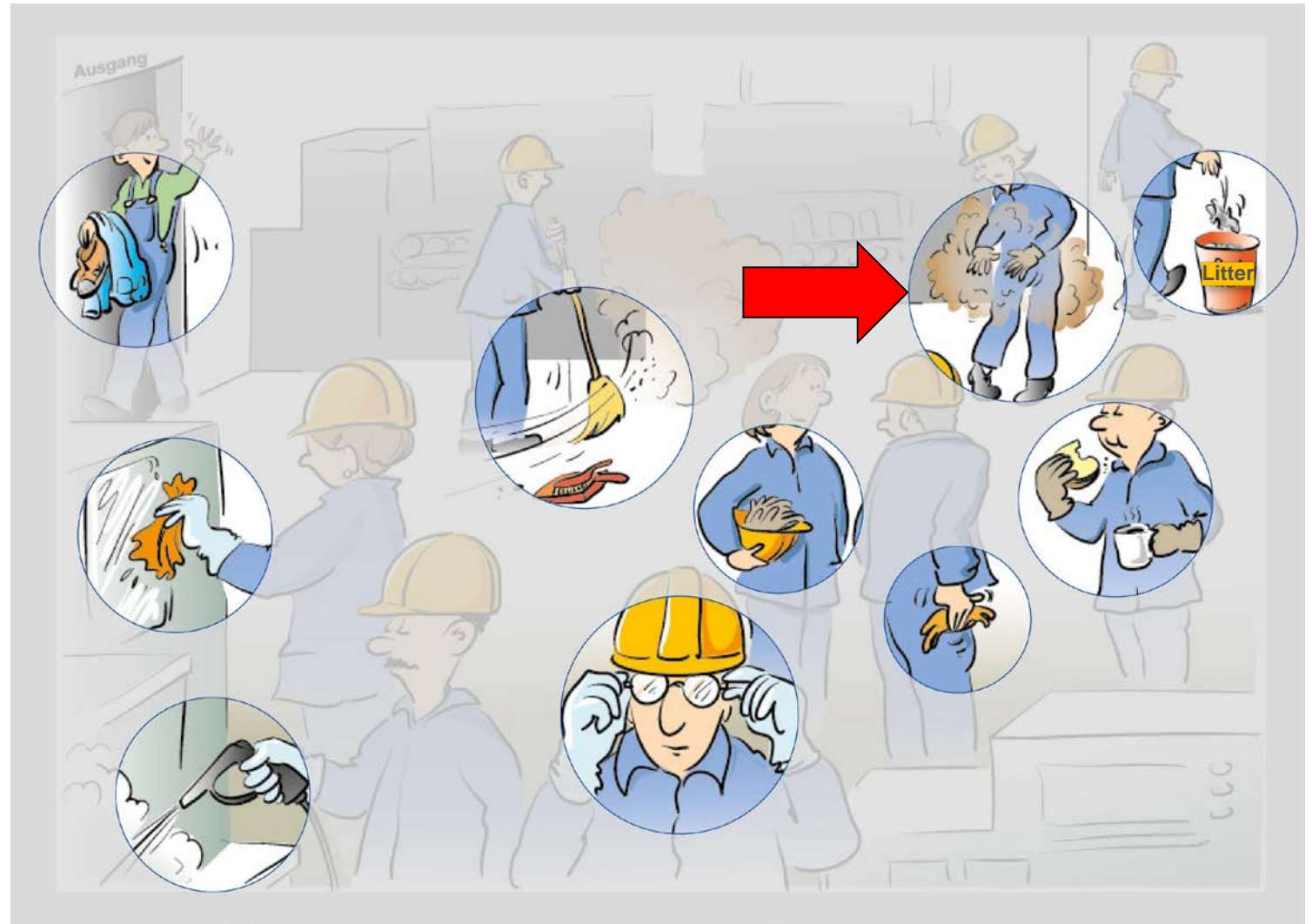
Sweeping
with a broom





Mistake 3

Dusting down work clothes





Mistake 4

Disposing of cleaning rags in residual waste





Mistake 5

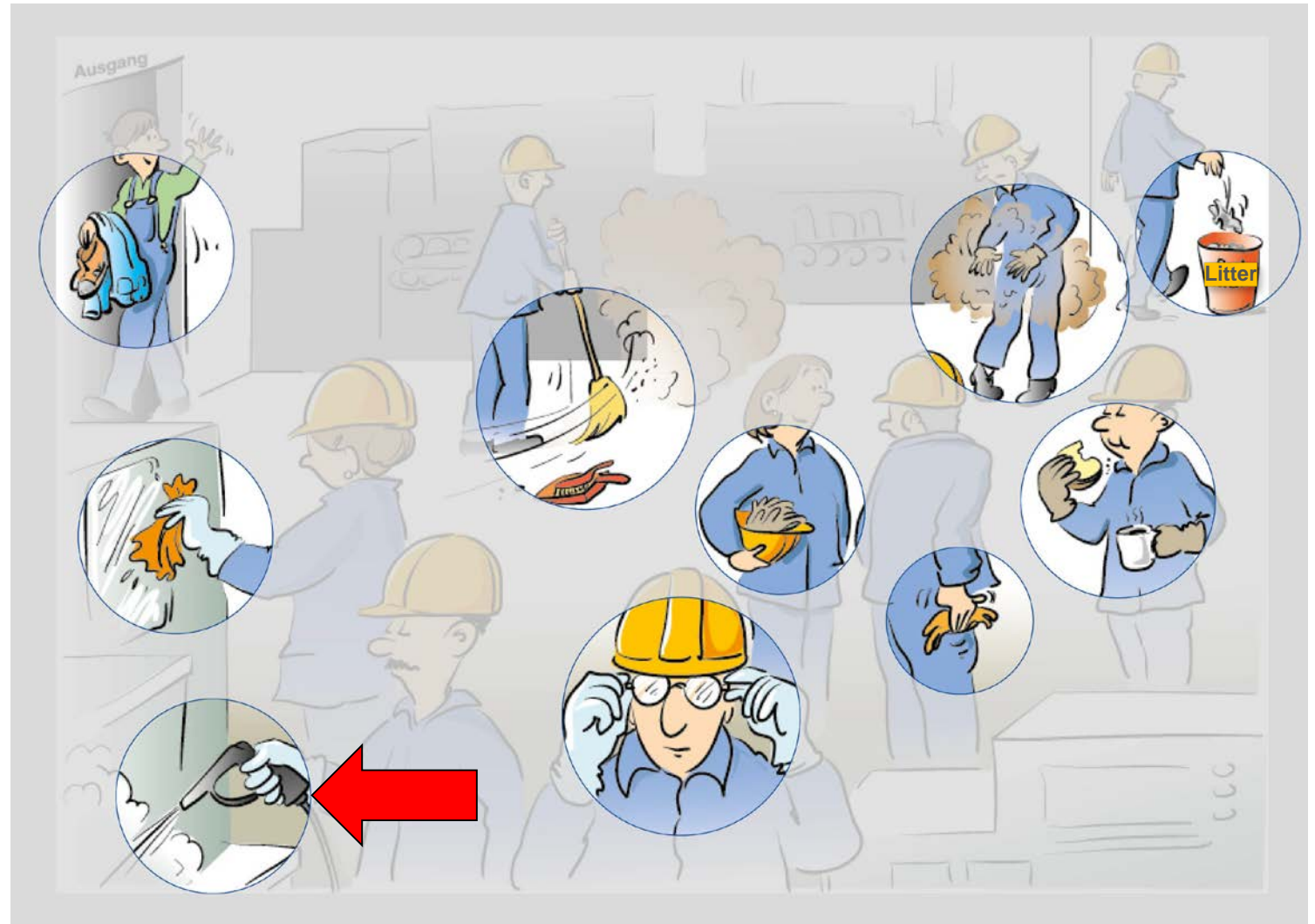
Cleaning other objects with contaminated rag





Mistake 6

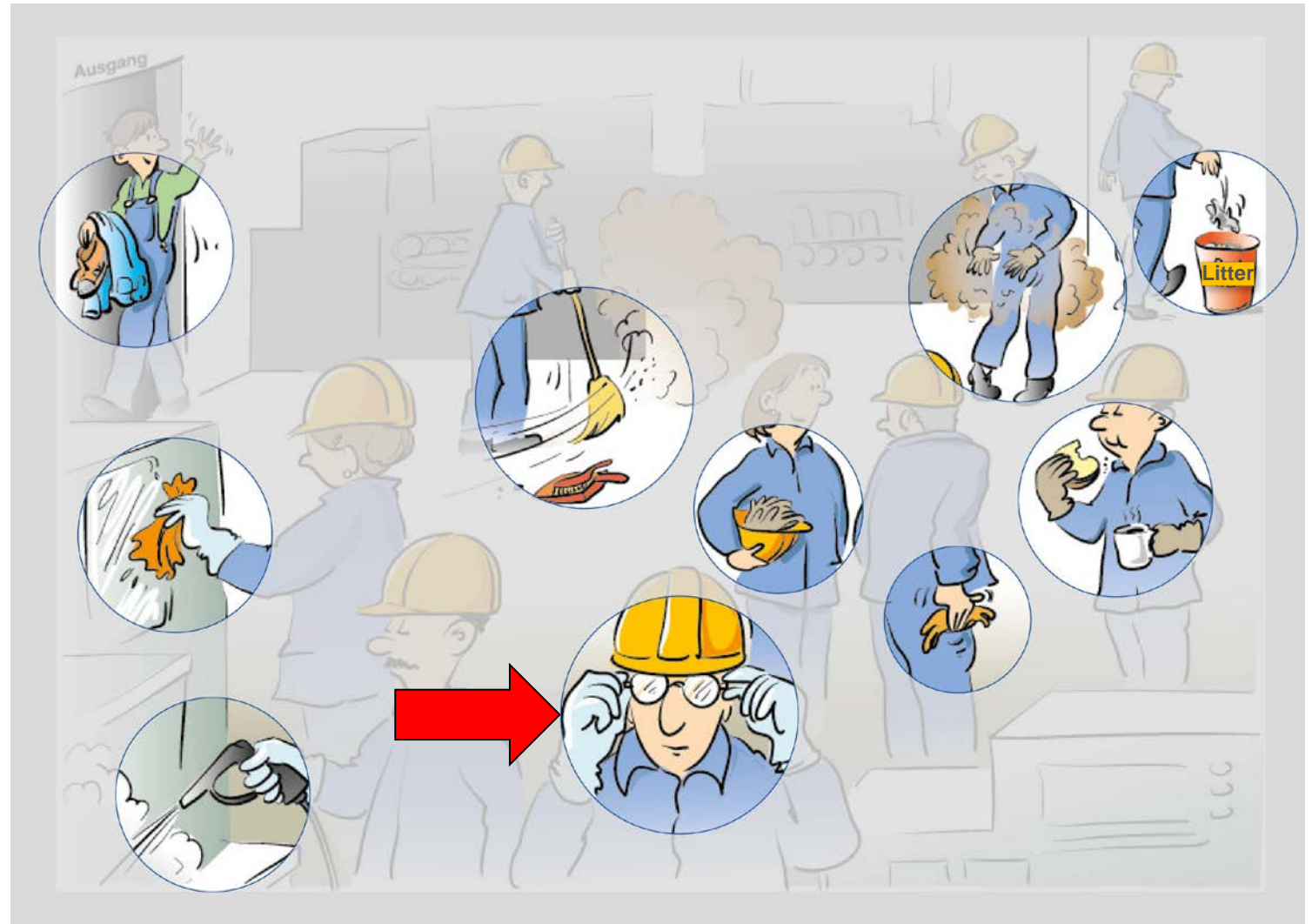
Blowing dusts off
with compressed air





Mistake 7

Removing glasses with gloves



Mistake 8

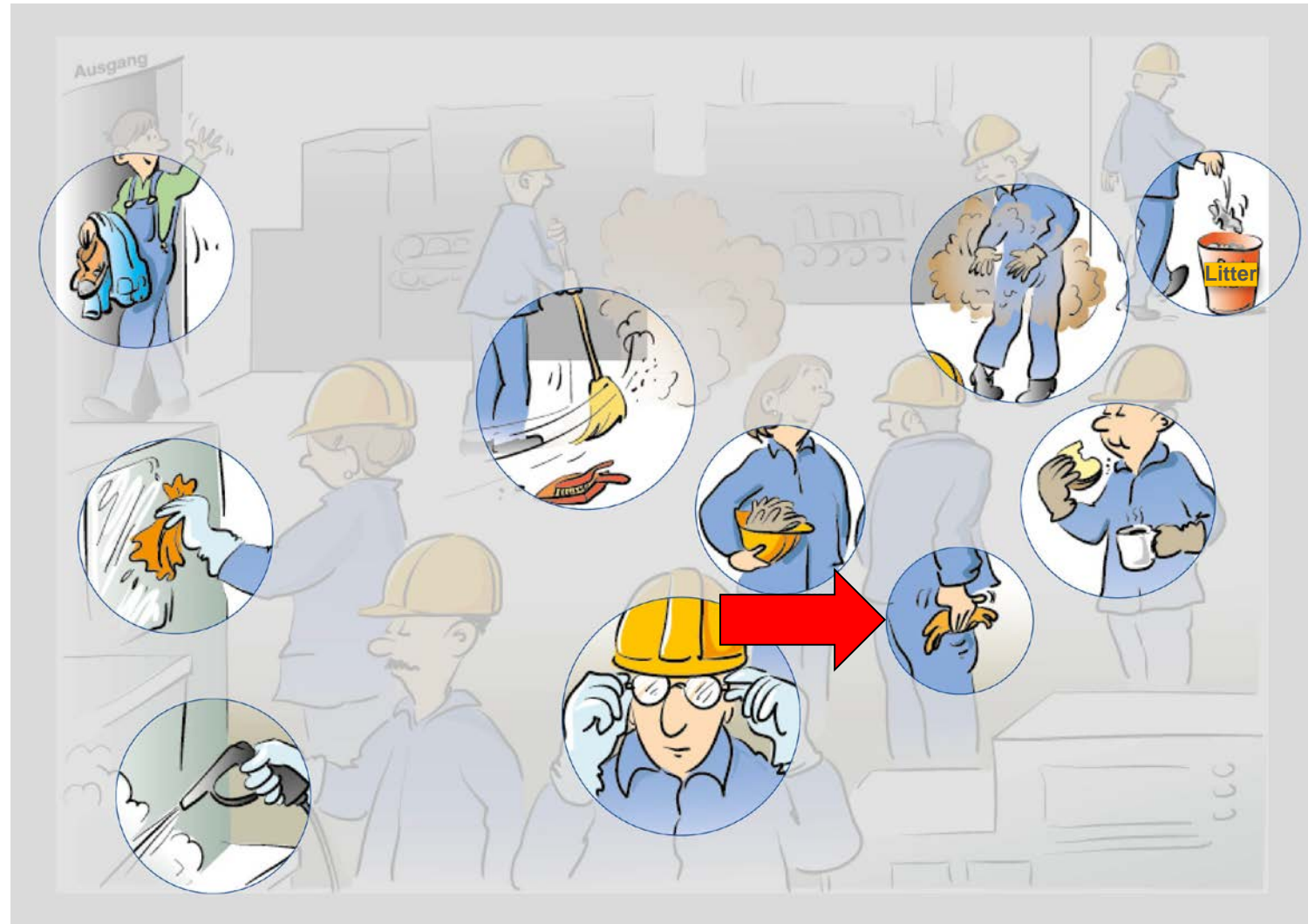
Transporting work gloves in helmet





Mistake 9

Putting cleaning rag in trouser pocket





Mistake 10

Eating with gloves at workplace

