PowerPoint – What is a Trigger?

A trigger is an object that you click to cause animation to occur on a slide. The animation can be anything–entrance, emphasis, exit, or motion path. You usually click on one object to trigger an animation of another object, but it’s also possible to make the trigger object and the animated object the same.

Normally, animations happen in a preset order, one after the other. If you have animations on a slide, on the Animations tab, click Animation Pane and you’ll see the animations listed in the order they will occur. You can start an animation by clicking — anywhere on the slide — or have it start with a previous animation or action (such as displaying the slide) or it can start after an animation or action.

But triggers let you throw that order out of the window. With triggers, you have to click ON the trigger object — not just anywhere on the slide — to initiate the animation. So you choose the order by what you click and when.

Triggers are often used for mini-quizzes or pop-ups that provide additional information.

How to create a trigger

1. Create an object and animate it.
2. Create another object (or text box).
3. Rename these two items:
   1. Click on the Home tab
   2. Click on Select --> Selection Pane
   3. Double-click on each item to rename it
4. Click on the animated object.
5. Then click on the Animations tab, click on Trigger --> on click of ... then choose your text box (in our example, choose Montreal)