

Classroom Management Tips



Ideas on how to divide pupils into pairs and groups

By a specific order: Ask pupils to get in line in alphabetical order (according to their first name or last name), order of birthdays (grouped either by their month, day or date of birth) or height, then divide them.

Pick and mix: Pupils can be divided into groups or pairs by having them pick objects from a bag. Then you can ask them to find their teammates. Some examples of objects you can use are:

- **Word jumble:** Coloured counters: (e.g. ask pupils to team with same colours together; different colours together; two same colour counters and two different ones, etc.).
- **Coloured pencils:** (e.g. pupils who pick the same colours from the bag are in the same group/pair; light and dark of the same colour makes a pair; four different colours makes a group, etc.)
- **Numbered lolly sticks:** Prepare lolly sticks by writing a number on the end of each stick and placing them number down in a small can or container. Each pupil picks one and finds their group/pair (e.g. same numbers, sequential numbers, odd numbers, etc.).
- **Word jumble:** Write vocabulary words from a topic on slips of paper and put them in a bag. Ask pupils to pick one and find the rest of their group or pair. Pupils should look for others who have similar words (e.g. dog breeds, bird species), others who group together (e.g. jungle animals, farm animals, sea animals) or words which start with the same letter (e.g. roses, rainbow, rock).



Animal sounds: This is a loud but fun way to create groups. Write names of animals on slips of paper. Distribute them and ask pupils not to show their slips. When everyone is ready they can make the sound of the animal on their slip of paper. They group with other members of their animal family.



Signalling that the activity has finished

When assigning speaking activities and playing games in large classes, it can often be hard to grab pupils' attention. Here are some suggestions to help you deal with this situation.

Can you hear me? Start talking to them in a very low voice and say, *If you can hear me, raise your hand.* Pupils who hear you raise their hand, which will get the attention of other pupils, who will do the same.

Clapping: Clap your hands in different patterns and speed. Pupils have to join you in clapping. Say, *Clap once if you can hear me.* Some pupils join you. Then say *Clap twice if you can hear me.* And finally, *Clap three times if you can hear me.* At this point, pupils will notice that the activity has finished.

Eyes on me: Count to three saying, *One, two, three... eyes on me!* Pupils stop the activity and say, *One, two, three... eyes on you!* This way, if the other pupils have not heard you, they will hear the pupils and then notice that the activity is finished.

Ring a bell: Set a timer for time you would like the activity to last or ring a bell. When pupils hear the sound, they stop the activity.

