



Learn some ways to quickly form groups without using any cards, marbles, candy, or other objects.

An Internet search will easily reveal 30 different ways to divide a class into groups that many of the creators insist are fun to do and require the use of cards, marbles, candy, and other objects. Is the purpose of forming groups to have fun, or to get students into groups quickly to work? These are some ways to quickly form groups without the use of any materials:

### **Thumb Up or Down**

Ask students to close their eyes and put their hands together with the fingers interlocked and the palms touching each other. Ask them to open their eyes and look down at their hands. Direct those with their right thumb on top to go to one group and those with the left thumb on top to go into another group.

Use this method if you want to form two teams. If the teams are uneven in number, quickly direct whatever number is needed to move to the other line. Pick people from different parts of the group so the students think you are being arbitrary.

### **Curl a Line**

Have students form a single line. Bring the ends of the line to curl up until they meet to form two lines. Go down the dual lines and cut off sections to form whatever number of student groups you need for an activity.

### **By Seasons**

Have students form groups according to which of the four seasons they were born. Help students by posting the months that are found in each season. Use the months within the seasons to create smaller groups or to mix students from different seasons.

### **Hands Up, Hands Down**

Have students form two lines with their backs to each other or one line of girls and one line of boys. Tell the students that you are going to walk down both lines and if they are tapped on the shoulder to raise their hand.

Tell the students who have their hand up to form one group and the ones with their hands down to form another group.

### **Teacher-Made Groups**

You determine who will be in each group. Put groups of student's names on a card, slide, or poster. Instruct students to look for their name and go to the station or area you have for the activity. This prevents the cheers or moans that come with announcing names. Change the groups often throughout the year.

Refrain from letting students pick their groupmates. This eliminates students feeling left out, chaos in the classroom as students search for potential groupmates, and grouping students with incompatible learning levels or disparate behavior patterns.