

QUICK THINK!

(based on [Beat The Clock!](#) and assorted timed game shows)

This was a favorite activity in my classroom during the week leading up to a holiday. I allocated the last 10 minutes of each class for the game. We kept the same teams all week and cumulative team scores. When we played the game for multiple days, on the last day I awarded everybody a treat/prize. The winning team received an additional treat/prize, plus bragging rights!



This whole-group activity builds thinking and listening skills. The object is to name items that fit into a given category before time expires (20 seconds). Adapt and improve on my simple guidelines.

► **Teacher preparation:** minimal; on small slips of paper, write a category (topic); fold the papers in half and place in a bag/hat

► **Materials required:** stopwatch; bag/hat with topics

► **Grouping possibilities:** whole group; divide class into two teams

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHER

1. Select official judge and official timekeeper. Their responsibilities include tallying responses, keeping the official score, and keeping time. Be sure to select a new judge and timekeeper each day.
2. Explain rules for the game.
 - Each team sends one person to front of the room. Only that person can answer!
 - Person 1 draws a slip and hands the folded slip to the teacher. The teacher announces the topic, says "Go" and the time begins.
 - When time expires, the timekeeper says "Stop" and team score is recorded.
 - Person 2 draws a slip and hands the folded slip to the teacher. Announce the topic, say "Go" and the time begins.
 - When time expires, the timekeeper says "Stop" and team score is recorded.
 - Continue to next two students.
 - Each person on the team participates.
3. Review your classroom procedures regarding noise levels, game behaviors, etc.
4. Provide a treat/prize for the winning team.

Quick Think!

Possible Categories

Use content-specific topics as well as general world knowledge topics.

- Musical Instruments
- Weather words
- Words that rhyme with _____ (e.g., boot; flame; save; weak)
- First names that begin with the letter ____
(repeat using a different letter)
- Items found in the Art Room (Band Room, Gym, etc.)
- Drama words (*not an emotion; drama as a genre*)
- Math vocabulary
- Adjectives that begin with the letter ____
(repeat using a different letter)
- Things you can climb into
- Poetry words (*poetry as a genre*)
- Things you can crawl under
- Elements on the Periodic Table
- Factors of ____
(repeat using different numbers)
- Things that can be recycled
- Things that come in pairs
- U.S. Presidents
- States east of the Mississippi River (or west)
- Things you can plug in
- Nouns that begin with the letter ____
(repeat using a different letter; or, singular nouns, plural nouns, etc.)
- Things you can divide
- Flavors of ice cream
- Things you can find in an emergency room
- Counties/Parishes in our state
- Things you can find in the library
- State capitals