

Standing Pairs

Many teachers are reluctant to have students stand and pair off to talk about content, even though they know moving and talking are great for learning. One reason for this reluctance is the stress of creating random pairs. Here are 4 ideas for making random pairs stress free and fun.

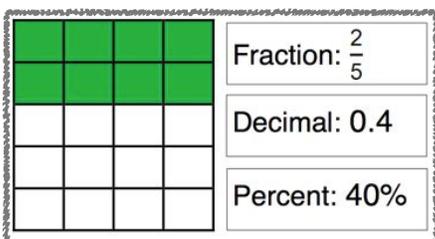
Idea #1: Card Partners

Get two decks of playing cards that are different colors, for example blue and red. Hand out red cards to half the class and the matching blue cards to the other half. Then have students stand and find their card-mates (i.e. red ace of spades finds blue ace of spades). Or use a single deck and take out two suits (like all the spades and hearts) and pass out the remaining suits. Kids find their matching card (4 of diamonds finds 4 of clubs etc)



TIPS: If you have thirty-two students, choose sixteen cards from the red deck and the matching sixteen cards from the blue deck and file away or temporarily get rid of the rest of the cards from both decks. Then you will always be ready to go, without having to sort through the cards to make pairs each time. If you have an uneven number of students, hand out one unmatched card. Whoever gets the unmatched card gets to choose which pair to join.

Idea #2: Word or Number Partners



WORDS: Using small note cards, write out enough vocabulary words, one word per card, to give to half the class. Then write the definitions of each word on separate cards. Hand cards out randomly. Have students stand and find the person in the room whose definition matches their word. Or instead of definitions, have matching antonyms, examples or images on the second set of cards.

NUMBERS: Hand out simple math problems on index cards. Have students solve their problem and find the other person in the room with the same solution. For example one card might have “3 x 3” and its partner might have “36 divided by 4.” Both solutions are 9, so the cards are partners. Or hand out equivalents on different cards, such as 2/5 partners with 40%.

Idea #3: Picture Partners

For a class of thirty students, get fifteen pictures (from a magazine, calendar, or hand drawn) and cut each picture into two pieces. Randomly hand out the pieces to the class and have students stand and find their “other half.”

Modification: For groups of three or four, take large photos (like those from an old calendar), laminate them and cut them into 3 or 4 puzzle shaped pieces. Hand them out randomly and have students complete their puzzle to find their groups.



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Idea #4: Clock Partners / Appointment Book



Clock Partner (Elementary)

Give each student a piece of paper with a large clock face drawn on it. Draw lines to each number. Have students stand up and greet any other student in the class and make an “appointment” to meet again at a particular time by writing each other’s name in a particular time slot. For example, I might greet a boy named Jared and ask him if his 4 o’clock is empty. If he says yes, I write my name in his 4 o’clock and he writes his name in my 4 o’clock. Now we are 4 o’clock partners. Continue having students greet others until all twelve of their time slots have been filled. The next time you want students to stand and partner up, choose any number on the clock and say “Class, stand up, find your 4 o’clock partners and discuss ...”. *Note: The times on the clock do not have to correspond to the actual time of day*

Appointment Book (Secondary)

On a piece of paper, create an appointment book (or photocopy an actual page from an appointment book) with six or more available appointments. For example you might choose to black out all times except 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Have students mingle and make an appointment with six different people, one for each open time slot. You can add information for kids to collect for each appointment, such as their partner’s favorite school subject, favorite music, or best memory from summer. The next time you want students to stand and partner up, choose a time and say “Class, stand up, find your 11o’clock appointment and do”

TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES

- Require that at least 2 partners are girls and 2 are boys.
- Collect and photocopy each students completed clock/ appointment book. Hand back and have kids tape or glue to their binder to reduce losses. Losses will still happen.
- Let students make new clocks each quarter or semester.
- Have students stand and separate to the four corners of the room based on some personal information. For example, make each corner of the room a season and have students move to the corner that represents their season of birth. Then have them make an appointment or two with someone in their seasonal group. Pick a new category (like number of siblings: 0, 1, 2-3, more than 3), separate again, and make two appointments.
- Model common pitfalls and how to navigate them, like greeting someone who does not have any open times on their clock that match yours (solution, say “nice to meet you” and move on), and not writing the same person’s name in two time slots.
- Make it more fun by softly playing popular music while they mingle and give them clipboards to make it easier to write while standing.

Your Name: <u>Grace Dearborn</u>	
APPOINTMENT CALENDAR	
12:00	Saturday
9:00	Jennifer likes x-factor on tv, hates math, has 3 older brothers
10:00	Marco Likes pizza, rides motorcycle, plays guitar in band
11:00	Adeline Writes poetry, likes shopping with friends, wants to live in Paris someday
12:00	Samuel Has dog named Max, can fix computers, wants to be engineer or architect
1:00	