

Who's the Leader?

No-prep energizer · ages 5 to adult · beginner and up · 5 to 10 minutes

① How to play

1. **Choose a detective.** One student is the detective. They step outside the door, or turn around and close their eyes.
2. **Pick a secret leader.** The class quietly points to one student. The leader starts an action, like swimming. Everyone copies and says it: "We're swimming!"
3. **Change the action.** Call the detective back. Every few seconds the leader changes the action ("We're typing!", "We're eating noodles!") and the class follows.
4. **Three guesses.** The detective asks "Is it Leo?". Three guesses to find the leader. Then the leader is the next detective.

② Tips

Tell the class to copy someone near them, not the leader, or everyone stares at the leader and gives them away. Use one freeze signal (hand up, count down from three) when it gets loud.

Big class? Everyone stays seated and copies with their arms. With 40 or more, send out two detectives who guess together.

③ Easier and harder

Easier: Write the actions on the board first, or hand the leader a few action cards.

Harder: The detective says every new action out loud: "Now they're dancing!" Teens and adults explain their guess: "It's Mia. She always moves first."

④ What students say

The class

We're swimming!
We're eating noodles!

The detective

Is it Leo? Is it Mia?
Now they're typing!

Teens and adults

It's Mia. She always moves first.
I think it's Leo because...

⑤ Actions to call

Say them as the class does them: "We're ...!" The cards on page 2 have the same 24 actions.

IN CLASS

writing, reading, typing,
drawing, sleeping,
cutting paper

SPORTS

swimming, running,
jumping, skiing, playing
tennis, riding a bike

AT HOME

eating noodles,
brushing our teeth,
washing our faces,
cooking, sweeping,
singing

SILLY

dancing, flying like
birds, driving a bus,
playing the guitar,
walking like robots,
lifting weights

⑥ Why it works

Students say what they are doing while they do it, so every word matches an action. The detective asks because they need the answer to win, so the questions are real.

Action cards

Give the leader a few cards, or stick them on the board for the Easier version.

IN CLASS writing We're writing!	IN CLASS reading We're reading!	IN CLASS typing We're typing!	IN CLASS drawing We're drawing!
IN CLASS sleeping We're sleeping!	IN CLASS cutting paper We're cutting paper!	SPORTS swimming We're swimming!	SPORTS running We're running!
SPORTS jumping We're jumping!	SPORTS skiing We're skiing!	SPORTS playing tennis We're playing tennis!	SPORTS riding a bike We're riding a bike!
AT HOME eating noodles We're eating noodles!	AT HOME brushing our teeth We're brushing our teeth!	AT HOME washing our faces We're washing our faces!	AT HOME cooking We're cooking!
AT HOME sweeping We're sweeping!	AT HOME singing We're singing!	SILLY dancing We're dancing!	SILLY flying like birds We're flying like birds!
SILLY driving a bus We're driving a bus!	SILLY playing the guitar We're playing the guitar!	SILLY walking like robots We're walking like robots!	SILLY lifting weights We're lifting weights!