

Yes, No, Stand Up

No-prep energizer · ages 6 to adult · beginner and up · about 5 minutes

① How to play

- Set up.** Push bags under the desks so the aisles are clear and everyone has room to stand.
- Check the language.** Write YES, NO and SOMETIMES on the board with an action for each: yes, stand up; no, sit down; sometimes, hands on your head.
- Model it, then ask.** Ask yourself a question and answer with your body: "Do I like coffee? Yes! Up I go." Then ask the class easy questions: "Do you like pizza?"
- Say it as you move.** Students say the short answer as they move: "Yes, I do!", "No, I can't!", "Sometimes!" Throw in a trick question, then hand the questions to a student.

② Tips

Use one freeze signal: raise your hand and count down from three. Six to eight questions is plenty, then sit everyone down and start the lesson.

Add a trick question ("Is $2 + 2 = 5$?") to keep everyone listening. Once they have it, a student asks the questions and you join in.

③ Easier and harder

Easier: Show a picture with each question and use yes and no only.

Harder: Anyone standing tells someone sitting one detail: "Have you ever been on a plane?" "Yes, I have. I went to Spain!"

④ What students say

Young learners

Do you like pizza?
Yes, I do! / No, I don't! /
Sometimes!

Older kids

Can you swim?
Yes, I can! / No, I can't!

Teens and adults

Have you ever been on a plane?
Yes, I have. I went to Spain!

⑤ The language

Yes/no questions and short answers: Do you...? (Yes, I do. / No, I don't.), Can you...? (Yes, I can. / No, I can't.), Have you ever...? (Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.), and "sometimes"; for older students one detail in the past simple.

⑥ Why it works

Every question is about the students' own lives, so every answer is real. They listen, decide, move and speak, and the short answer has to match the question, so the grammar does a real job.

Question bank

Pick six to eight. Mix in one trick question.

Young learners

Do you...? Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

1. Do you like ice cream?
2. Do you have a pet?
3. Do you like rain?
4. Do you eat breakfast every day?
5. Do you like homework?
6. Do you have a sister?
7. Do you like pizza?
8. Do you play football?
9. Do you like spiders?
10. Do you eat vegetables?

Older kids

Can you...? Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

1. Can you swim?
2. Can you whistle?
3. Can you ride a bike?
4. Can you cook?
5. Can you touch your toes?
6. Can you speak three languages?
7. Can you stand on one leg?
8. Can you play the piano?
9. Can you wink?
10. Can you count to 100 in English?

Teens and adults

Have you ever...? Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.

1. Have you ever been on a plane?
2. Have you ever met someone famous?
3. Have you ever eaten sushi?
4. Have you ever lost your phone?
5. Have you ever sung karaoke?
6. Have you ever seen snow?
7. Have you ever broken a bone?
8. Have you ever cooked for your family?
9. Have you ever won a prize?
10. Have you ever slept in a tent?

Trick questions

Keep them listening. Everyone should stay seated!

1. Is $2 + 2 = 5$?
2. Is the sun cold?
3. Can a fish climb a tree?
4. Is it Saturday today? (on a weekday)
5. Do cats bark?
6. Is snow hot?

Board signs

Stick them on the board, or hold them up while you check the language.

YES

Stand up

NO

Sit down

SOMETIMES

Hands on your head