

Guess My Rule

GUESS THE SECRET RULE!

What You Need

- 10–20 different objects (like shoes, pencils, pens, rocks, coins, paper clips, small toys, etc.)
- a friend



1 First, **group** together a few objects that have something in **common**, like size or color. (You don't need to use all the objects.)



2 Then have your friend **guess** the "rule" you used to group the objects. (For example, they are short. Or, they are red.)



3 To **help** your friend figure out the rule, he or she can think of an object that is not in the group and ask if it **belongs**. You can only answer "**yes**" or "**no**."

4 **Switch roles**. Let your friend put together a group of objects, and then try to guess the rule.

Sent in by Katie G. of Storrs, CT



Try It Out!



Now it's time for you to **experiment**. Try making up **different rules** for the same collection of objects. Or use the same rule for a **different collection of objects**. What happens if you use only two objects? Can someone still guess your rule? Send your **best rule** to ZOOM and tell us what objects fit into the group.

Science Scoop

When you notice how objects are **similar** or **different**, you're thinking like a scientist. Scientists put things into groups by looking at how they are alike or different. This is called **classification**. For example, one way scientists classify trees is by their leaves: Trees that drop their leaves each year are called **deciduous**; trees that don't drop their leaves are called **evergreen**. When scientists find a new type of tree to classify, they ask **yes-or-no questions** to decide which group it belongs in. If they ask, "Does this tree drop its leaves each year?" and the answer is "yes," then the tree is deciduous.



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