

# Odd One Out

Compare properties and defend a classification with evidence.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

## Before the lesson

Choose four items that permit more than one defensible grouping.

## Teach it in four steps

1. Show ice, steam, liquid water and oxygen. Give quiet thinking time.
2. Ask each learner to choose an odd one out and name a criterion.
3. Pairs compare criteria; require evidence for both choices.
4. Change one item and ask whether the original criterion still works.

## Worked classroom example

Science: oxygen is the only item that is not water; ice is the only solid in the set. Both answers can be defended using different criteria.

Teacher prompt: "Which detail supports your explanation? Show me how you know."

## Check understanding

Ask learners to distinguish an unsupported choice from a choice supported by a property.

## Fade the support

Remove the supplied criterion words and ask learners to generate their own.

## Adapt it across subjects

Maths: 2, 3, 4, 9 permits several criteria; insist on a precise rule.

Humanities: compare four sources by purpose, date or audience.

## Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.