

Method:

1. Have each student sit at a table within reach of the other participants.
2. Hand out one toy to each student. Make sure each has an object to draw.
3. When everyone is ready, tell the participants they will have 10 seconds to draw the object in front of them and then pass it to their left (or right). Go!
(Time them with your stopwatch. At first, there may be some panicking. That's okay. They will settle into the pace as you repeat the exercise. Remember, they are not making works of "art" here. They will do their best with the time allotted.)



(**Note:** With young children, you might need to give them 20 seconds, or even 30.)

4. At the end of the time, tell them to stop drawing and quickly pass their objects to the person on their left. (Work to keep things moving at a quick pace with little time for thinking between receiving the toy and the act of drawing. Repeat steps 1–4 around 6 to 8 times.)

Questions for the participants:

1. How easy was this exercise?
2. How many participants found that this exercise became more difficult with each repetition?
3. How many in the group found this exercise to go more easily with each repetition?
4. What objects do you recall?
5. What one important detail about one or more of those objects do you recall?

Online:

While we're teaching classes on various online platforms, consider taking close-up photographs of your collection of funny objects and save each photo on its own page in a Word document or in a PDF.

When sharing your screen with the class, cycle through your pages of photos at a rate you decide is appropriate for the age group (e.g., 10 seconds for older students; perhaps 20 seconds for K–5 students).