

Sort It the Same

Classroom-ready printable pack · Grades K–8

Pack contents

blank category/rule cards, neutral sample cards, and sorting mats Two student sets are included.

Teacher directions

1. Prepare the teacher-supplied manipulatives named on the activity page, or use the included paper alternative where provided.
2. Give partners identical support materials; keep the model, rule, or sequence hidden from the Builder.
3. Run the barrier round using the included tokens, cards, mat, or recording sheet.
4. Compare, apply the reference check, revise one unclear instruction, and switch roles.

Before class

- Print at 100% on US Letter paper. Use cardstock or laminate for reuse.
- Cut on the thick solid borders. Keep Set A and Set B separate.
- Give challenge/model cards only to the Describer.
- Use a folder, book, or tabletop barrier so partners cannot see each other's work.

Accessibility and accommodations

Use the paper alternative, reduce the set, enlarge cards, read labels aloud, and permit repeated directions. Cards combine words, symbols, and patterns rather than relying on color.

Storage-envelope labels

Sort It the Same

Set A — Describer

Count pieces before storing.

Sort It the Same

Set B — Builder

Count pieces before storing.

Sort It the Same

Challenge / model cards

Count pieces before storing.

Sort It the Same

Teacher reference

Count pieces before storing.

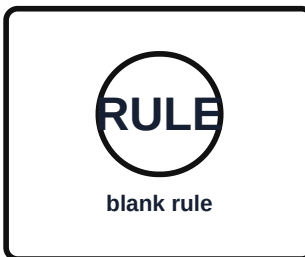
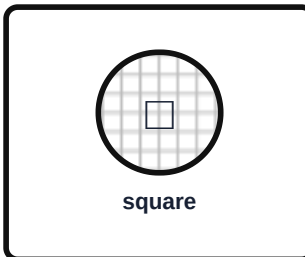
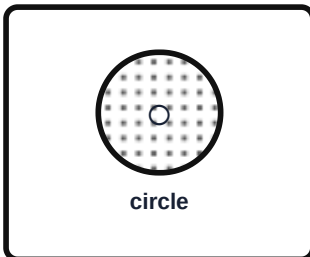
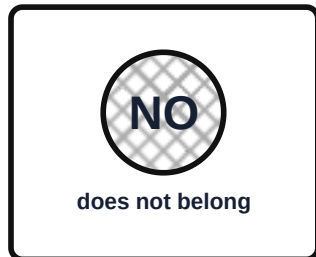
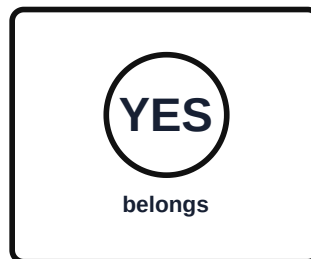
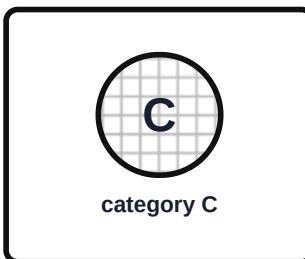
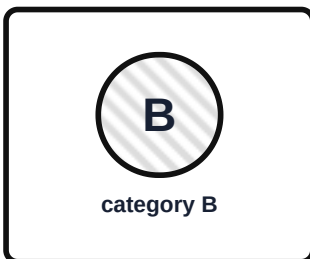
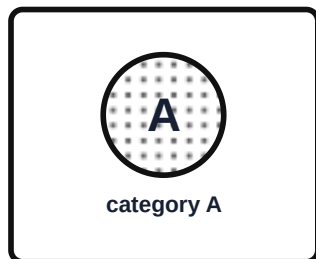
Student language supports

Position: above · below · beside · between · near · far · left · right · clockwise**Clarify:** “Please repeat...” · “Is ___ beside ___?” · “What should I place next?”**Compare:** same · different · rotate · move · replace · sequence

Movable pieces

Set A

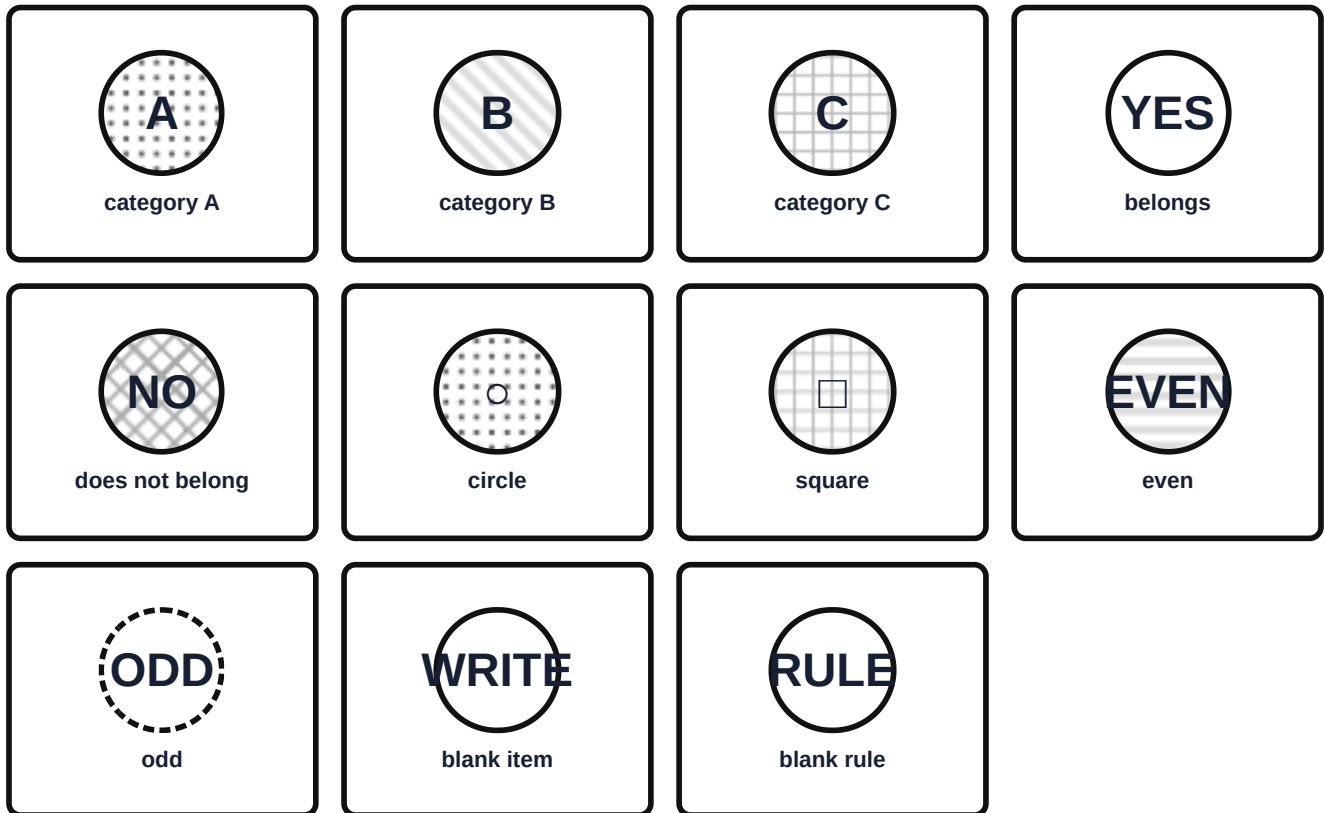
Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Movable pieces

Set B

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Sort It the Same support mat

Cut the page in half. Both partner mats are identical.

Set A — Sort It the Same support mat

setup • sequence / arrangement • check • revision notes

top / far

center

bottom / near

Set B — Sort It the Same support mat

setup • sequence / arrangement • check • revision notes

top / far

center

bottom / near

Describer-only challenge cards

Keep these cards hidden from the Builder.

Challenge 1

sort by shape

Challenge 2

sort by number property

Challenge 3

sort by material

Challenge 4

create two valid rules

Sort It the Same reference

Teacher-supplied materials and reference

A valid sort applies the same stated rule to every item. Some sets permit multiple defensible rules; record the chosen rule before comparison.

This is an optional convenience pack. Ordinary manipulatives remain teacher-supplied; inspect physical materials and adapt difficulty, reading load, movement, and sensory demands for the learners present.

Quality check after a round

- Can each student identify pieces by shape or label without relying on color?
- Do both models match in pieces, order, orientation, and relative position?
- Which direction was most precise? Which should be revised?