

First, second & third exploration activities



1 Line up and name the places

Three students line up at the door. The class names each position: first, second, third. Rotate the students and name again, several times.

"Who is first now? Did the people change, or did the line change?"

2 The race

Three students act out a race finish, crossing a line one after another. The class names the finishing positions, then the runners race again in a different order.

"Who finished first? Who came second? Who came third?"

"Is the same person always first? What decides who is first?"

3 Anticipate the change

Four students stand in a queue at the door. Before anything moves, pose a change and students predict every new position. Then make the move and check. Work through: the first person steps out of the line; a new person joins at the front; the second and third swap.

"Before we move – if the first person steps out, who will be first? Who will be third? Now check."

"Did everyone's place change, or only some? Why?"

4 Non-example: I passed second, so I'm first

Three students walk slowly across the room in race order. The walker in third overtakes the walker in second, stops, and the teacher makes the claim on their behalf.

"You passed the person who was second. So you're first now – right?"

Walk it again slowly. Students watch who is still ahead after the overtake.

"Who is still in front of you? Passing the person in second makes you second – not first. To be first, who would you still have to pass?"