

1

Watch both of them

Two students thread beads with the beads already in their hands, and you give the signal. The student being assessed only watches. Cut each job to three beads so that both finish while they are still watching, since a job that runs long is a job that stops being watched.

"Watch both of them. Tell me who finishes first."

2

Who took longer

Straight after the two finish, ask who took longer. First and longer are two different words for the same run, and students need both attached to what they just saw.

"Who took longer?"

"Who was still working after the other one stopped?"

If the student is unsure, run it again with one job made much shorter so the difference is plain, then ask again.

3

Finish the sentence

Have the student build a tower beside a partner and finish last, then give them the sentence rather than a question. The reason should come from the job.

"Finish this sentence for me. I took longer because..."

"How many blocks did you have?"

If nothing comes, say the sentence and one reason yourself, then have the student say the whole sentence back before moving on.

I took longer because

It took less time because

They finished first because

We started at the same time