

1

Hand scales

Pairs take a card naming two objects, find them, and heft them one in each hand before saying which is heavier. Every pair gets hefted, including the ones where the answer looks obvious.

"Which hand feels like it is being pulled down more?"

"Say it while you are still holding them."

2

Surprise swap

Give pairs where the smaller object is the heavier one, such as a small rock and a large empty box. Students say which they think will be heavier before picking either one up, then test it.

"Which one do you think will be heavier? Now pick them up."

"Were you right? What made you think that?"

3

Do these feel the same

Give pairs of near equal mass, such as two identical tins or two bags of rice. Students heft them, find they cannot tell, and use the balance. Not being able to tell by hand is the reason the balance exists, so treat it as a result rather than a failure.

"Do these feel the same? What could we use to be sure?"

"What did the balance tell you that your hands could not?"

4

Judging by size alone

Claim that the biggest object in the room must be the heaviest, and name a large cushion beside a small toy car. Students test the claim and say what is wrong with it.

"Someone said the biggest object is always the heaviest. Let us test that."

"What would you tell them instead?"

Pair cards

a stapler and a pencil

an apple and an orange

a tin and an empty box

a book and a tissue box

a full bottle and an empty bottle

a rock and a sponge

a shoe and a sock

two identical tins

a soft toy and a tin

a bag of sand and a bag of paper

a block and a foam block

a glue stick and a marker

Blank cards for pairs the class chooses
