

1

Order three, then say it four ways

Pairs push three straws of different lengths up to the tape and lay them out from shortest to longest, then take turns saying one sentence each about them using longer, shorter, longest and shortest.

"Put these in order from shortest to longest."

"Tell me about them using longer, shorter, longest and shortest."

2

Two things that cannot be moved

Pairs take string and scissors and work out whether the doorway or the bookshelf is wider, then try two window ledges in different rooms using one piece of string marked rather than cut, so the same string serves both.

"These cannot be moved. Work out which one is wider using the string."

"How did the string let you compare two things that are not together?"

3

Compare both to the same third thing

Give pairs a broom handle that is longer than one shelf and shorter than another, and ask them to compare each shelf to the handle and then say which shelf is longer.

"Compare each shelf to the broom handle. Which shelf is longer?"

"How do you know, when you never put the two shelves together?"

4

An unfair comparison

Put two ribbons of exactly the same length on the table with one starting well ahead of the other, and claim that the front ribbon is longer. The two ribbons are the same length, so any answer other than moving them to a common start answers a different question.

"I say this ribbon is longer. Is my comparing fair?"

"What would you have to do before you could answer properly?"