

1

Bring them together

Put two ribbons of similar length on the table lying apart from each other and ask which is longer. The work here is the move the student makes before answering, so say nothing while they decide what to do with them.

"Which ribbon is longer? Show me how you worked it out."

A student who brings the two together with one set of ends matched has the technique. A student who holds them up loosely and guesses has not, so put a line of tape on the table and have them place both ends on it.

2

Who is taller

Stand two students of similar height apart, with one of them on a mat, and ask the group to work out who is taller and set it up so that it is fair.

"Work out who is taller. Set it up so it is fair."

"What is the mat doing to this?"

3

Say both parts of the reason

With the ribbons compared, ask for the reason. A complete reason has two parts, that both ends started together and that one goes further, and students usually give the second part only.

"How do you know that one is longer?"

"You told me one goes further. What else is true about where they start?"

4

Station rotation

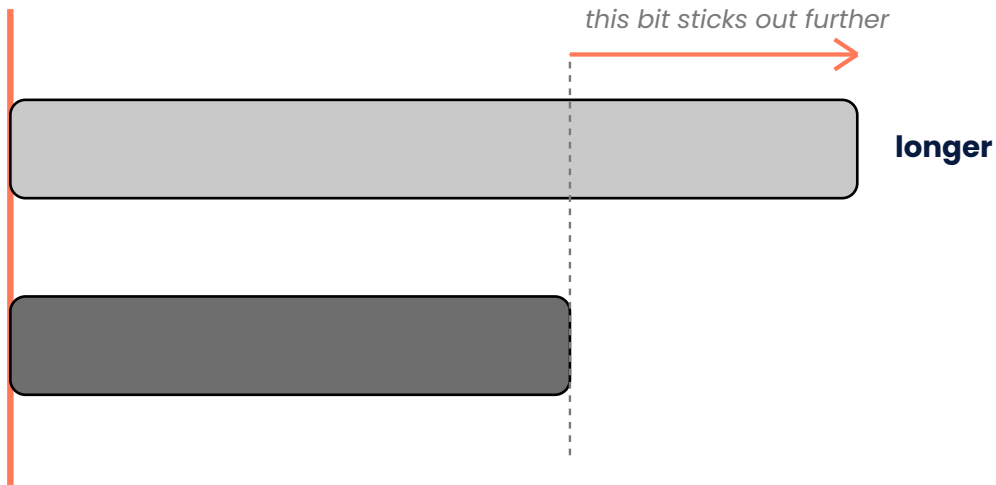
Set out the pair cards around the room with the objects they name. Pairs move from station to station, lining up each pair and telling the next group which one is longer and how they know. The tape line stays on each table so the shared starting line is always there.

"Line them up, then tell the next group which is longer and how you know."

How to compare length

Keep this on the table while you work.

start here



- 1 Put one end of each object against the same line.
- 2 Hold both of them straight.
- 3 Look at the far ends. The one that sticks out further is longer.

Not like this

The ends do not start together, so the far ends tell you nothing.



Pair cards

two pencils

a fork and a spoon

two shoes

a hairbrush and a comb

two strips of card

two books

two pieces of string

a crayon and a texta

two rulers

two ribbons

two straws

two blocks

Blank cards for pairs the class chooses
