

Hinge Questions

Education

A single question that tells you, in under a minute, whether to move on.

A hinge question is answered by every pupil at once, in under a minute, and each wrong option identifies a specific misconception.

all pupils respond → you read the room → the next move changes

Whole class responds

Cards or fingers

Under 30 seconds

You interpret

At a glance

Under 30 seconds

Wrong option 3

Not random

Names a misconception

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Asking has everyone understood, or taking hands up**

✓ **A question every pupil must answer simultaneously**

Volunteers are a biased sample. Hands-up tells you what the confident pupils think, which is the information you already had.

William's design test: you must be able to act differently depending on the answer. If the next step is the same either way, it is not a hinge.