We tried 30 free online stopwatches: the best ones, and what we built

Peabody blog · Teaching · updated 2026-10-29

The best free online stopwatch for a classroom, from Polytimer to Google's own card: what each does, which show ads, how to time a relay, and what we built into ours.

The best free online stopwatch for a classroom depends on the job: Polytimer or Visual Timer to time several students at once, WebWork, stopwatch-online.com or EasyTimer.app for one big stopwatch that says it shows no ads, and Google's own card for a quick check. Most of the 30 we tried do the same few things well, so the differences that matter are ads, whether your laps survive a closed tab, and whether you can time more than one runner.

Peabody (peabody.kids) wrote this guide while upgrading its own classroom stopwatch, and Peabody is free through the end of 2026. Apart from our own stopwatch, none of these are ours, and nobody paid to be listed. Every fact about another site was read on its own page on 29 October 2026. "Not stated" means we did not see it on the page, which is not the same as the site lacking it. The order is ours, not a popularity count.

The quick answer: ten stopwatches side by side

- Stopwatch: Polytimer · Several at once: Yes, unlimited and named · Laps: Yes, with a comparison to the average · Saves or exports: CSV export · Ads (what the page says): "No ads, ever" · Best for: Timing several teams side by side
- Stopwatch: Peabody Teach · Several at once: Yes, 2 to 8 named lanes with Start all and a podium · Laps: Yes, fastest and slowest marked, a note per lap · Saves or exports: CSV, and kept in your browser · Ads (what the page says): None · Best for: Class races and beating a class record
- Stopwatch: Visual Timer · Several at once: Yes, with Start All and a one-at-a-time mode · Laps: Yes, on its Lap Timer and analog pages · Saves or exports: CSV export · Ads (what the page says): "Ad-light" · Best for: Relays and races
- Stopwatch: WebWork · Several at once: No · Laps: Yes, fastest and slowest marked · Saves or exports: CSV, and laps kept after a reload · Ads (what the page says): None, it says · Best for: One big stopwatch that remembers
- Stopwatch: stopwatch-online.com · Several at once: No · Laps: Yes, unlimited · Saves or exports: Spreadsheet export, and kept in your browser · Ads (what the page says): None on the timer face · Best for: A plain projector stopwatch
- Stopwatch: EasyTimer.app · Several at once: No · Laps: Yes · Saves or exports: Not stated · Ads (what the page says): None, it says · Best for: A clean stopwatch you can style

• Stopwatch: Stopwatch.net · Several at once: No · Laps: Yes, fastest and slowest marked · Saves or exports: Not stated · Ads (what the page says): Not stated · Best for: Quick laps with the usual keys
• Stopwatch: FreeClassroomTools · Several at once: No · Laps: Not stated · Saves or exports: Saving needs a paid workspace · Ads (what the page says): Not stated · Best for: A teacher-made full-screen stopwatch
• Stopwatch: Time to Decimal · Several at once: Yes, in groups · Laps: Yes · Saves or exports: CSV and JSON · Ads (what the page says): Ads shown · Best for: Speaking turns and stations
• Stopwatch: timeanddate · Several at once: No, one per page · Laps: Yes, labelled and editable · Saves or exports: Text file · Ads (what the page says): Ad slot on the page · Best for: Labelled splits and a start countdown

What makes a great classroom stopwatch

These are the features that separated the thirty.

Big digits and a real full-screen view. A stopwatch on a projector is read from the back of the room. Nearly every site has a full-screen button; the best also suggest the F key.

Keys, not tiny buttons. Space to start and stop, L for a lap, R to reset. Stopwatch.net, MiniWebtool and stopwatch-online.com all list the same four keys (Space, L, R and F for full screen), so it is a standard worth expecting.

Laps that tell you something. A lap is the time since the last lap, and a split is the total so far. The useful sites show both and mark the fastest and slowest. Polytimer goes further and compares each lap to the average.

Several stopwatches at once. A relay, a station rotation or a row of children each timed needs more than one. This is the biggest split in the field: the plain stopwatch sites cannot do it, while Polytimer, Visual Timer, Time to Decimal, Online-Timers and now Peabody's own Class Race can.

No ads on the big screen. A banner on a projector pulls every eye. Four sites say they show none: Polytimer, WebWork, stopwatch-online.com (on the timer face) and EasyTimer.app. Several well-known ones, including timeanddate, Toy Theater and Online-Stopwatch.com, show ads.

Results that last. WebWork, stopwatch-online.com, vClock and Peabody's stopwatch keep your time and laps in your browser after a reload. OnlineClock.net says laps are lost on a refresh. If it matters, copy or export before you close the tab.

Honest accuracy. Several sites, including Stopwatch.net, MiniWebtool and EasyTimer.app, say they read the computer's clock rather than counting ticks, so a busy tab doesn't make them lose time. The bigger error is the person pressing the button. EasyTimer.app says

plainly that it is not a certified scientific instrument, which is the right thing to tell a class.

The ones worth knowing

Polytimer is the strongest free multi-timer we found. You add as many named, colour-coded stopwatches as you like in a grid, each runs on its own, and every lap shows its split and a comparison to the average. It says free and no ads. The page didn't mention classrooms, keyboard shortcuts or saving results, and it names only "the Polytimer Team".

Visual Timer's Multi Stopwatch is built for races. It has Start All and Stop All, number keys 1 to 9 for each runner, CSV export, and a "One at a time" option for relays, where starting one stopwatch stops the others. Its analog stopwatch has a red sweep hand children can read. The footer calls the site "ad-light", so some ads may show.

WebWork's free stopwatch says no sign-up, no ads and no paywall. It saves time and laps across a reload, exports CSV, and can keep the screen awake. It comes from a time-tracking company, so nothing in it is classroom-specific.

stopwatch-online.com shows hundredths, has eight colour themes, unlimited laps and the usual keys, and says it works offline once loaded. It states no ads on the timer face. It doesn't name its maker.

EasyTimer.app runs without sign-up or ads, lists the newest lap first with its difference from the last, and lets you set the label, colour, font and size and share the setup as a link. It shows no fastest-lap mark.

Stopwatch.net is a no-fuss stopwatch with fastest and slowest laps highlighted and the four standard keys. It says nothing about ads or its maker.

Time to Decimal's multiple stopwatches has a clever idea: groups A, B and C start or pause a whole group at once, and a "Switch" mode pauses the others when you start one, which suits speaking turns. It shows ads and says to avoid confidential labels, so use initials.

timeanddate's stopwatch lets you label and edit splits without stopping the clock, add a countdown before the start, and set recurring alerts. Its help page says only one stopwatch fits on a page. An ad slot sits on the page.

OnlineClock.net's stopwatch has a target time (20 seconds, a minute, five minutes or your own) that sounds a tone without stopping the clock, which suits a fluency minute. Laps are lost on refresh.

Online-Stopwatch.com is the name most teachers know, with a Split Lap Timer and a huge range of animated race timers where ducks, spaceships or reindeer run to the finish. Those races are countdowns with a random winner, and the free version has ads (Premium, $24 a year as of 29 October 2026, removes them).

Google's stopwatch card appears when you search "stopwatch": Timer and Stopwatch tabs,

one start button, a sound switch and a full-screen icon. It is the fastest way to a running clock, and it has no names, lanes or saved results that we could find.

Eight ways teachers use a stopwatch

1. Beat the line-up record. Time how long the class takes to line up quietly. Write it on the board, or name the challenge on Peabody's stopwatch so it remembers, and try to beat it tomorrow.
2. A relay with a stopwatch per team. Use a multi-stopwatch tool, or one stopwatch with a lap for each team.
3. How many in a minute. Start the stopwatch and count facts, words or push-ups until a minute is up. Our guides to free times tables practice and mental math games pair well with this.
4. Silent reading stamina. Time how long the class reads without a sound, and add a minute each week. See also how long should kids read.
5. Guess the time. Cover the screen, start the stopwatch, and ask children to stand when they think 30 seconds are up. Uncover it and see who was closest. Peabody's Guess the Time hides the digits for you and scores each guess.
6. Speaking turns. Give each pair the same time to talk, and use a lap for each turn.
7. PE circuits and drills. FreeClassroomTools suggests warm-ups and circuits; a lap for each child gives a quick list to compare.
8. Science: how long did it take? Time a ball rolling down a ramp or a paper plane's flight, with a lap for each repeat.

How to choose

- One class, one big screen, no fuss: WebWork, stopwatch-online.com, EasyTimer.app or Stopwatch.net.
- Several students or teams at once: Polytimer, or Visual Timer if you want Start All and a relay mode.
- A race the class can watch, or a record to beat: Peabody's Class Race, Guess the Time and Beat the Record.
- Young children who like a race scene: Online-Stopwatch.com's animated races, knowing the winner is random.
- Labels, countdowns before the start, alerts: timeanddate.
- A target that keeps counting: OnlineClock.net.
- Names of students: use first names or initials on any site that doesn't say where names go. Several here do not say.

What our own stopwatch does now

Peabody Teach has a free stopwatch at teach.peabody.kids/stopwatch. We rebuilt it on 29 October 2026 around the gaps this survey found, so it now has three modes and the small things the best sites taught us.

- A class race with the real finishing order. The class race gives 2 to 8 named lanes one Start all, with a 3, 2, 1 count-in. Press a lane's number (1 to 8) as it finishes: the lane freezes with its place and how far behind the winner it was, its runner dashes to the line, and when the last lane is in, a podium rises in the order they really finished, with confetti and a fanfare. Two finishes within 0.15 seconds share a place and say tie, because a hand on a button can't separate them, and U undoes a mis-tap. The animated race timers we found pick a random winner and the multi-stopwatch tools show a table of numbers; we didn't find another that turns real times into a podium.
- Guess the time. On its own page the digits vanish when you press Start. Each child or team presses when they think 10 seconds (or 5 to 60, or your own number) are up. At the reveal every guess lands on a line around the target, early or late, and the closest wins. Nothing on the screen, in the tab title or in what a screen reader says gives the time away before then.
- Beat the record. Name a challenge such as "Line up quietly", choose fastest wins or longest wins, and the stopwatch keeps the class's best in your browser with the last five tries. A track under the digits shows the record's flag; beat it and the screen says New record. Passing the flag in a fastest-wins challenge just says keep going, never a failure colour, and the record belongs to the class, not to a child.
- Sounds made in the browser. A soft click, the count-in, a rising note for each lap so a relay sounds like a tune, and a fanfare for a podium or a record. M turns them off and there are three volumes. No sound file is downloaded.
- It keeps your results. The time and the laps survive a reload (a running stopwatch keeps counting), laps download as a CSV, and race results copy, download or print under a title you type. The tab title shows the time, the screen stays awake while it runs where the browser allows, Reset asks first once a run is past 30 seconds, and young classes can hide the hundredths.

It still counts from the clock so it can't drift, there is no sign-in and no ad, and nothing you type, lane names included, is sent anywhere. On our Top 20 list of online stopwatch websites it now ranks second, behind Polytimer, which runs as many stopwatches as you like and compares each lap to the average; ours stops at eight lanes. For children, Peabody's reading and learning games are in the story library.

Questions

What is the best free online stopwatch for a classroom?

For one class on one screen, WebWork, stopwatch-online.com, EasyTimer.app and Stopwatch.net are simple and free, and the first three say they show no ads. To time several students at once, Polytimer and Visual Timer's Multi Stopwatch are the strongest free ones we found.

Which online stopwatches have no ads?

On the pages we read, Polytimer says "No ads, ever", WebWork says no sign-up, no ads and no paywall, stopwatch-online.com says no ads on the timer face, and EasyTimer.app says without sign-up or ads. Peabody's stopwatch has none. timeanddate, Toy Theater, Calculate.co.nz and Online-Stopwatch.com show ads.

Can I time several students at once?

Yes. Polytimer, Visual Timer, Time to Decimal and Online-Timers run several named stopwatches on one page, and Visual Timer adds Start All and a one-at-a-time relay mode. Peabody's Class Race starts up to eight named lanes together and shows the real finishing order on a podium. A single stopwatch can also do it if you press Lap as each student finishes.

How accurate is an online stopwatch?

Accurate enough for class. The better ones read the computer's clock rather than counting ticks, so a busy tab doesn't throw them off. The human pressing the button is the bigger error, so treat the hundredths digit as a guide and don't use it to settle a close race.

Does a stopwatch save my laps?

Only some do. WebWork, stopwatch-online.com and vClock say they keep your time and laps in the browser after a reload, and Peabody's stopwatch does too; OnlineClock.net says laps are lost on a refresh. Copy or export your laps before you close the page if you need them.

Is Peabody's stopwatch free?

Yes. It is free through the end of 2026, with no sign-in and no ads.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/best-free-online-stopwatch-for-the-classroom