We tried 25 free wheel spinners and name pickers: the best for a class

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We tried 25 free wheel spinners and random name pickers: which are best for a class, what makes a great wheel, and what we built into Peabody's free wheel.

The best free wheel spinner for most classrooms is Wheel of Names: it is free with every premium feature unlocked, needs no account and has the most sounds, pictures and settings. If you want the class list to stay in your browser, Random Wheel Spin, Seating Chart Maker's wheel and Peabody's own wheel all say they keep it there, and the last two say they show no ads.

Peabody (peabody.kids) wrote this guide after opening 25 free wheel spinners and random name pickers, and then rebuilt its own wheel for teachers from what we learned. Peabody is free through the end of 2026. Apart from our own wheel, none of these are ours, and nobody paid to be listed.

Every fact about another site was read from that site's own page on 29 October 2026. "Not stated" means the page did not say, which is not the same as no. The full ranked list, with the price and one limit for each, is the Top 20.

The quick answer

- Best overall: Wheel of Names. Its home page counts 462,479,318 spins so far in 2026.
- Best for review questions: Random Wheel Spin, which hides a question or task behind each slice.
- Best for privacy and no ads: Seating Chart Maker's wheel, which says it runs in your browser and never sends the list to its servers.
- Most controls: Picker Wheel.
- Best inside a class display: Classroomscreen.
- Best for groups and seating: Flippity.
- Best for a new look every week: Online-Stopwatch, with about 28 animated pickers.
- Best with no ads and turns you can see: Peabody's wheel (ours), which fades each winner and skips children marked away.

The top ten side by side

Prices and ads are as the pages said on 29 October 2026.

- Site: Wheel of Names · Price: Free, all features · Ads: Yes; close them, or use full screen · Where the names are kept: On your device; the cloud only if you choose Save, then Cloud · Standout: 150+ sounds, pictures, confetti, weights

- Site: Peabody's wheel (ours) · Price: Free · Ads: None · Where the names are kept: Your browser · Standout: Clicking pegs, fair turns you can see, a paper spinner
- Site: Random Wheel Spin · Price: Free · Ads: Yes; hidden in full screen · Where the names are kept: In your browser, no login · Standout: A hidden question behind each slice
- Site: Seating Chart Maker's wheel · Price: Free · Ads: None, says the page · Where the names are kept: Runs in your browser · Standout: Soft ticks, three spin lengths, light and dark
- Site: Picker Wheel · Price: Free; Premium removes ads · Ads: Yes, for free users · Where the names are kept: Browser local storage by default · Standout: The most settings; Hide Choice mode
- Site: Classroomscreen · Price: Free Basic; Pro $3 a month billed yearly · Ads: Not stated · Where the names are kept: Not stated · Standout: Randomizer inside a class display
- Site: ClassTools · Price: Free with ads; Premium removes them · Ads: Yes · Where the names are kept: Not stated · Standout: 11 wheel themes, fruit-machine view
- Site: Flippity · Price: Not stated · Ads: Not stated · Where the names are kept: Not stated · Standout: Groups, teams and seating from one list
- Site: Online-Stopwatch · Price: Free to 100 names; Premium $24 for 12 months · Ads: Yes · Where the names are kept: Not stated · Standout: About 28 animated pickers
- Site: Super Teacher Tools · Price: Free · Ads: Not stated · Where the names are kept: Not stated · Standout: A custom spinner saved in the web address

What makes a great wheel for a classroom

After reading all of them, six things separated the wheels teachers keep from the ones they try once.

It is free where the class can see it

Most wheels are free to spin. The differences show up around the edges: a free tier that stops at three saved lists, a Premium plan that removes ads, custom sounds or pictures held back. A wheel on the projector is a wheel in front of the whole class, so what the page shows matters as much as the price.

The names stay with you

A class list is children's names. Wheel of Names says it saves on your own device after every change; Picker Wheel says it autosaves to your browser. One site we read sends every name to its server for some draws and says it does not store them. Many pages say nothing at all. Use first names or initials anywhere a page is silent.

The spin feels like an event

The most-loved wheels make noise. Wheel of Names offers a library of more than 150 sounds and tracks, Picker Wheel and Random Wheel Spin add confetti, and Seating Chart Maker's wheel clicks softly as the pegs pass. A pause, a sound and a payoff are what make a class lean in.

Everyone gets a turn

Calling on the same few hands is a common problem. Wheel of Names has a Remove button, Picker Wheel has Hide Choice, Classroomscreen has Remember chosen students, and Random Wheel Spin can remove each result automatically.

Words can sit behind the slice

Random Wheel Spin's best idea is a hidden note: a vocabulary word on the wheel, its meaning revealed after the spin. Wheel of Names and Picker Wheel put pictures on slices instead. Either one turns a name wheel into a review wheel.

It is fair, and says how

Wheel of Names says it uses the browser's secure random generator rather than the weaker Math.random, and links a ten-thousand-spin test. Random Wheel Spin offers a hash-and-seed check. If a site cannot say how it picks, a long spin only looks fair.

The best ones, one by one

Wheel of Names

Everything is free, there is no sign-in to spin, and it covers weights, several wheels on a page, pictures from your files or a built-in photo gallery, and a Remove button. The catch: it shows ads (you can close them for the session), and its cloud save needs a login and stores wheels in a Google database in US data centers.

Random Wheel Spin

Free, no sign-up, saved in your browser, with confetti or fireworks, a Speak Result button and a hidden note per entry. The catch: ads show until you go full screen, and its custom-wheel form is described as sharing wheels with the community, so keep student names out of it.

Seating Chart Maker's wheel

The closest thing to a private classroom wheel we found: no ads, no registration, the list never sent to the maker, a Remove winner tick that is remembered, and three spin lengths. The catch: share links carry the list unencrypted, and the page does not mention confetti or pictures.

Picker Wheel

Spin speed from 1 to 10, a manual stop button, read-aloud, confetti and an elimination mode. The catch: free users see ads, and the page warns that clearing your browser's history erases your wheel.

Classroomscreen

A class display whose Randomizer shows one name or a wheel, with a setting that remembers who has been chosen. The free Basic plan saves three name lists. The catch: the pages we read did not say where the lists are stored.

ClassTools

A wheel with 11 themes, a fruit-machine style view and an option to show only the names still left, shareable by link, embed or QR code. The catch: ads for free users, and no word on where saved lists live.

Flippity

Turns a Google Sheet into a picker, with a spinner, a lineup mode that picks each child once, groups of up to 15, teams, seating charts and gift exchange lists. The catch: the Sheets version needs a Google account.

Online-Stopwatch

About 28 animated pickers: a crane claw, a magic hat, whack-a-mole, scratchcards. The page says the visual pickers have sounds and are free. The catch: ads for free users, and free users stop at 100 names.

Education Copilot

A picker free for teachers, with reusable class lists, a no-repeat mode, a way to bring picked students back and optional weighting. The catch: the page did not say whether you must sign in or where lists are stored.

Ten ways teachers use a wheel

1. Who answers next. Spin, then take the winner off so everyone gets a turn.
2. Presentation order. Spin once for the whole line-up.
3. Review questions. Put a question behind every slice and let the class answer whatever comes up.
4. Vocabulary. Put the words on the wheel and ask for a sentence, or hide the meaning behind each word.
5. Brain breaks. List five movements and let the wheel pick the next one.

6. Jobs and helpers. Spin for line leader, door holder and materials manager each Monday.
7. Partner and group picks. Spin twice, or use a group maker built for it.
8. Math facts. Put the numbers 1 to 12 on a wheel, spin twice and ask the class for the sum or product.
9. A choice for the class. Let children write the options for the Friday reward, then spin.
10. Let a child spin. The child who just got picked spins for the next one.

How to choose

- Want the most features? Wheel of Names.
- Want names kept in the browser and no ads? Seating Chart Maker's wheel or Peabody's.
- Want a hidden question behind each slice? Random Wheel Spin.
- Already use a class display? Classroomscreen's Randomizer.
- Need groups and seating as well? Flippity.
- Want something new each week? Online-Stopwatch.

What we built

Peabody's wheel (teach.peabody.kids/wheel) now sits second in our Top 20, behind Wheel of Names. It is free, needs no sign-in and shows no ads, and the names stay in your browser. After this survey we rebuilt it around the things a room of children cares about. As of 29 October 2026 this is what it does:

- A real prize wheel. Pegs sit on the rim and the pointer is a flapper: each peg pushes it aside with a click, fast at first, then tick… tick… and sometimes the flapper leans on a last peg and the wheel rocks back. There are five sound packs (Wooden clack, Carnival bell, Space blip, Soft click and Quiet), all made by your browser on the spot, with no audio files. M mutes it.
- A big reveal. When the wheel stops, the winning slice lifts out, the name fills the wheel over a burst of confetti, and a Say it button reads it aloud. "The winner spins next" hands the wheel to the child who was just picked.
- Fair turns you can see. Fade the winner leaves each winner's slice on the wheel, pale with a tick, so the wheel never changes shape, and a bar shows how many have had a turn. Tap a name to mark a child away today: their slice is hatched and skipped until midnight. Remove the winner and Keep everyone in are still there.
- Flick to spin. Drag the wheel round with a finger or a mouse and let go. How hard you flick changes the show, never the odds: the winner is drawn first with your browser's secure random generator, and the wheel then turns to show it. Space stops it sooner, and lands on the same winner.
- A note behind a slice, and pictures. Write cat | a small furry pet and the note appears under the winner after the spin. Start a line with an emoji and it is drawn big on the slice. Two columns pasted from a spreadsheet become slice and note.

- A paper spinner. Print the list as a wheel with patterns as well as colours, so it works on a black-and-white printer, for a pencil and a paper clip.
- "Is it fair?" One button spins the wheel 1,000 times with the same draw and shows the bars against the line an even wheel would make. Ask the class to predict first.
- Settings teachers asked for: Quick, Normal and Long spins, four colour sets including a colour-blind safe one and high contrast, up to 1,000 entries, and twenty ready-made wheels with their own pages.

The name picker next door gained a gumball machine: every name left is a gumball with its initials, you turn the crank, and the drawn name rolls out and pops up big. Like the deck, it never repeats a name until everyone has had a turn.

What it still lacks: pictures from your own files, weighted slices, several wheels on one page and other languages. Wheel of Names has all of those, which is why it stays first. None of the pages we read describes pegs and a flapper, a flick, an away-today mark or a printable paper spinner. The rules stay the same: no ads, no sign-in and no names leaving your browser.

Try Peabody's wheel and see the full Top 20. If you also want reading for your class, Peabody's free stories are a good place to start, and our posts on children's privacy and how free kids' websites make money explain why we built it this way.

Questions

What is the best free wheel of names alternative?

For most teachers, Random Wheel Spin and Seating Chart Maker's wheel come closest to Wheel of Names while saying they keep the list in your browser. Seating Chart Maker's and Peabody's wheels say they show no ads.

Do wheel spinners save the names I type?

Some do, in different places. Wheel of Names saves on your device and goes to the cloud only if you choose it. Picker Wheel uses your browser's local storage. Many pages do not say, so use first names or initials.

How do I stop the wheel picking the same student twice?

Use the remove setting: Remove in Wheel of Names, Hide Choice in Picker Wheel, Remember chosen students in Classroomscreen. Peabody's wheel can fade each winner, so their slice stays on the wheel but cannot come up again until a new round, and it has an Undo button.

Is a spinning wheel really random?

It can be. A good wheel draws the winner first with the browser's secure random generator and then turns the wheel to show it. Wheel of Names and Peabody both say they do this.

Should I put students' names into a wheel website?

Check your school's rules first. Prefer a site whose page says the list stays in your browser, and use first names or initials where a page is silent. We are not lawyers, and this is not legal advice.

Is Peabody's wheel free?

Yes. Peabody, including its wheel, is free through the end of 2026.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/best-wheel-spinner-and-random-name-picker