CountUsDown review: one countdown the whole class sees at once

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A free timer you share with one link, so every screen reaches zero at the same second. No sign-up, a hold-until-start button, and tips for class.

CountUsDown is a free timer and countdown you share with one link: everyone who opens it watches the same clock, and it reaches zero at the same second on every device. It needs no account or app, and a teacher can hold it on a waiting screen until they press Start. Joe Pineda from CountUsDown wrote to us after reading our timer lists, and we're glad he did. We've added it at number two on our top 10 free classroom timer websites for the projector and to every free online timer we checked. Peabody (peabody.kids) is free for everyone through the end of 2026.

We wrote this from CountUsDown's own pages on 13 November 2026, so treat it as a guide to what the site says it does.

What it is

Most online timers live on one screen. CountUsDown is built around the link: make a timer or a countdown to a date, share it, and everyone with the link sees the same clock. Every clock is checked against the site's server time, so a laptop or phone whose own clock is a little off still finishes with everyone else. The page speaks 34 languages and shows dates and times the way each viewer reads them.

Why it suits a classroom

- One countdown, every screen. Put it on the projector and send the same link to student Chromebooks, and the board and every desk hit zero together. That's handy for a timed task, a station rotation or a test section.
- Hold until I start. Guests see a waiting screen until you press Start, then every clock begins at once. No one starts early, and no one's timer is a few seconds behind.
- No accounts. Making a countdown needs no sign-up, and watching one needs only a browser. That makes it easy to use with students, who don't have to create anything.
- Countdowns for the board. Ready-made countdowns to Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and two dozen other holidays, plus ones for exam day, graduation and the weekend, make a nice bell-ringer on the screen.
- An embed for your class site. Open Share, choose Embed, and paste the code into a class page or newsletter.

Three ways to use it in class

1. Timed independent work. Make a 15-minute timer, turn on Hold until I start, and post the link in your class page. Students open it on their devices while you give directions; when you press Start, every screen starts together, and the board shows the same time as each desk.
2. Station rotations. Leave one timer on the projector and send the link to each station's device, so groups at the back of the room can see the time left without turning around.
3. A class countdown to something good. Count down to a field trip, a class party or the last day before break. Put it on the board at morning meeting and let the class watch the days shrink.

At home

Families can use it the same way: one countdown to a birthday, a trip or New Year's Eve that cousins in other time zones all watch together. There's even an option to count to midnight in each viewer's own time zone. While the days tick down, a story from our library makes a good bedtime countdown of its own.

Good to know

CountUsDown is made by Nichesmith, a small Los Angeles studio that builds simple web tools. It's free and supported by ads, and the site says ads never appear in a countdown's final minute or at zero. On a projector, going full screen keeps the board clean. As with any site that shows ads, check it on the board before class.

It's a thoughtful idea, done simply: a timer that brings everyone to the same moment. If your class works across several screens, it's a lovely one to keep bookmarked.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/countusdown-review