We compared 20 free random number generators: the best for teachers

Peabody blog · Teaching · updated 2026-10-29

The best free random number generators for the classroom, from Picker Wheel to RANDOM.ORG, what makes one great on a projector, and the number machine we built.

The best random number generator for a classroom draws without repeats, can skip the numbers of students who are away, shows the number big enough for the back row, and keeps ads off the projector. Of the tools we read, Picker Wheel's number wheel and Funraise's raffle wheel came closest, and RANDOM.ORG is the one to use when you want the draw to be truly random. Peabody (peabody.kids) wrote this guide, then rebuilt its own free random number generator around what was missing, and Peabody is free through the end of 2026. Apart from our own generator, none of these are ours, and nobody paid to be listed.

We opened and read the page of 20 tools on 29 October 2026. Every fact about another tool comes from that tool's own page, and "not stated" means the page we read didn't say. The rank order is our own judgment, against five questions: is it free with no sign-in, does it draw the way a class needs, can you read it from the back row, what about ads and where the numbers go, and is there anything extra for a lesson. The full list, with every source, is the Top 20 random number generators.

Google's built-in generator, which appears when you search "random number generator", has a Min box, a Max box and a Generate button. It's fine for one number. We saw no way to pick several, avoid repeats or skip a number.

The best free random number generators for teachers

- Tool: Peabody Teach (ours) · What it is: A number machine with reels · Draws without repeats: A No repeats switch · Ads: None · What stands out: A class board you tap to skip absent numbers; digits, bingo and guess modes
- Tool: Picker Wheel Number Picker Wheel · What it is: A number wheel · Draws without repeats: Elimination mode · Ads: Yes on the free version · What stands out: Digits mode, exclude list, read aloud
- Tool: Funraise Online Raffle Wheel · What it is: A raffle wheel with a Numbers mode · Draws without repeats: Removes each winner · Ads: Not stated · What stands out: Says nothing is sent to a server
- Tool: SpinAndWheel Number Wheel · What it is: A number wheel · Draws without repeats: Removes each winner · Ads: Yes · What stands out: Voice control, winners tab
- Tool: Planit Teachers · What it is: A big-number generator · Draws without repeats: A No

repeats switch · Ads: Not stated · What stands out: Ready-made ranges, up to 100 a pick
• Tool: Givebutter wheel · What it is: A number wheel · Draws without repeats: Elimination Mode · Ads: Not stated · What stands out: An exclude field
• Tool: Comment Picker wheel · What it is: A number wheel · Draws without repeats: Remove after picked · Ads: Yes on the free version · What stands out: Odd or even only
• Tool: RANDOM.ORG · What it is: A form · Draws without repeats: A separate Sequence page · Ads: None, it says · What stands out: Atmospheric noise
• Tool: CalculatorSoup · What it is: A form · Draws without repeats: Allow repeats: no · Ads: Not stated · What stands out: Sets with numbers removed between them
• Tool: Toy Theater · What it is: A plain big-number tool · Draws without repeats: Not listed · Ads: Yes · What stands out: Simple and large

What makes a great random number generator for a classroom

No repeats, and a way to skip absent numbers

Calling on students by number feels fair only if nobody goes twice before everyone has gone. Look for a "no repeats" switch (Planit Teachers, Peabody) or an elimination or "remove winner" mode (Picker Wheel, Funraise, SpinAndWheel, Givebutter, Comment Picker). Then there's the daily problem: some numbers belong to students who are away. Picker Wheel, Comment Picker and Givebutter let you list numbers to exclude. It's the feature we missed most in the simple tools.

Big enough for the back row

A generator built for a laptop gives you small type. Planit Teachers and Peabody show the number large, and Picker Wheel, Funraise, Toy Theater and the bingo callers have a full screen option. RANDOM.ORG and the calculator sites are forms: fine at your desk, small on a projector.

Ads and where the numbers go

RANDOM.ORG and Bingo Card Creator's caller say they carry no ads. Toy Theater shows "Advertisement" labels, SpinAndWheel's cookie notice says Google AdSense shows ads, and Picker Wheel and Comment Picker both say what their paid plan does about ads, which means the free version has them. Several pages didn't say.

Funraise says its tool "runs entirely in your browser" and "Nothing is sent to a server." RapidTables says its numbers are made locally. RandomNumberGenerator.com is the opposite: it says its numbers are made on its web server.

Is it really random?

For a class draw, any good computer formula is fair enough. The pages still differ: RANDOM.ORG says its numbers come from atmospheric noise, RapidTables and Wheel of Names say they use the browser's secure generator, and Calculator.net says its numbers are pseudo-random. If a prize is at stake, say which you're using.

A little show, and extras for lessons

Wheels win on suspense. Picker Wheel, SpinAndWheel and Comment Picker spin with sound, and Funraise, SpinAndWheel and Comment Picker add confetti. For lessons, Picker Wheel has a Random Digits mode that builds a number of up to six digits one spin at a time, and Daily Maths Review makes numbers of one to eight digits for place value. Apart from bingo, nobody in our survey had a class game built in.

The best ones, in short

Picker Wheel Number Picker Wheel. The best of the others, and our number one until we rebuilt our own. Set a range, an interval or a formula, list numbers to leave out, and turn on elimination so each comes up once. A Mystery Result mode hides the answer until you press Enter, and Read Aloud says it. The limit: the page says Premium removes ads, so the free wheel shows them in front of the class.

Funraise Online Raffle Wheel. Free, "no sign-up", and the clearest privacy line of any tool we read. Numbers mode takes a range, a winner can be removed after each spin, and there's confetti and a full screen view. The limit: it's made for nonprofit raffles, so no skipping absent numbers, and it holds up to 2,000 entries.

SpinAndWheel Number Wheel. From, To and Step, a Winners tab and hands-free voice control. The limit: its cookie notice says Google AdSense shows ads and, if you agree, Google Analytics and Hotjar record traffic and session replays.

Planit Teachers' generator. The closest cousin to ours: how many are left, a big number, Space to pick, ready-made ranges from 1 to 10 up to 1 to 100, and up to 100 numbers in one pick. It's one of the maker's free tools beside a paid lesson planner. The limit: no privacy statement, and it doesn't say whether ads appear.

Givebutter's number wheel. A fundraising company's free wheel whose page names classroom draws as a use, with an interval, an exclude field and Elimination Mode. The limit: it doesn't say whether it needs an account, shows ads or where results are kept.

Comment Picker's number wheel. Presets, odd or even only, an exclude list, and a choice of spin and sound. The limit: the free version shows ads, and the page doesn't say where results are stored.

RANDOM.ORG. The best-known name in randomness. The Integer Generator makes up to 10,000 numbers in one go, the Sequence Generator shuffles a range with no duplicates, and its cookie notice says it carries no ads. The limit: it's a form, not a display for a projector, and a daily quota applies.

CalculatorSoup. Several sets at once, with numbers reused or removed between sets, sorted if you like, copied as a spreadsheet row or column. Good for making teams by number. The limit: small type, and nothing about ads or where numbers go.

Daily Maths Review and RapidTables. The first is made for place value: one to eight digits, up to seven numbers on screen, school-style fonts. The second has presets, a step setting and a chart of how often each number came up. The limit: neither draws one big number at a time without repeats.

Bingo callers. Bingo Card Creator's caller has 16 voices, patterns and a winners list, and calls itself ad-free. Tim's Printables' caller shows a board of called numbers and counts how many are left. The limit of both: they only call the 1 to 75 bingo set.

Eight ways teachers use a random number generator

1. Call on students by number. Number the class once, set the range to 1 to the size of the class, and leave "no repeats" on. No names on the screen.
2. Pick a page, a problem or a row. Range 1 to the number of problems, and the class does that one.
3. Make multiplication facts. Pick two numbers from 1 to 12 and ask for the product. See free math games for kids for more.
4. Run a bingo or a prize draw. Range 1 to 75 for bingo; one ticket number per student for a class prize.
5. Practice estimation. Pick a number from 1 to 1,000 and ask students to find something about that size.
6. Teach place value. Pick a three-digit number and ask for the hundreds, tens and ones. For warm-ups, ask for double it or ten more: mental math games has more.
7. Test fairness. Pick 100 numbers from 1 to 10, tally them and talk about why the tallies aren't all exactly 10.
8. Play "guess my number". Pick a secret number from 1 to 100 and let the class guess, with "higher" or "lower" after each. By always guessing the middle they can find any number in seven guesses.

How to choose

- Calling on students: a tool with no repeats and a way to skip absent numbers: Peabody's board (tap the number), or the exclude lists in Picker Wheel and Givebutter. If you don't need to skip numbers, Planit Teachers works too.

- A prize draw: Funraise or SpinAndWheel for the show; RANDOM.ORG if you want to say the numbers come from atmospheric noise.
- Place value: Daily Maths Review, Picker Wheel's digits mode, or Peabody's Digits mode, which reveals one place at a time.
- Bingo: a caller with a board, such as Tim's Printables, Bingo Card Creator or Peabody's Bingo 1–75.
- No ads at all: RANDOM.ORG, Bingo Card Creator's caller or Peabody.

What we built at Peabody

Peabody Teach's free random number generator started as a plain big-number picker. After reading the tools above we rebuilt it as a number machine for the projector. As of 29 October 2026 it does this:

- Reels you hold and release. Hold Space or the big button and every digit whirls on its own reel; let go and they lock one at a time from the left, each with a click, then a chime. The class can count down "3, 2, 1" and you land it on the cue. The numbers are drawn first with the browser's secure random generator, so the show can't change who's picked.
- A class board. For ranges of up to 100 numbers, every number is a tile that fills in as it's drawn, with the newest one outlined. Tap a tile to mark that student away: the number is hatched and skipped for today, and comes back at midnight.
- Quick ranges and rules. One tap for 1–10, 1–20, 1–30, 1–50 or 1–100; odd, even, multiples of any number, or counting by from the lowest; a Leave out box for numbers you always skip; one to ten numbers a pick, with Sort and Copy.
- Say it. S or a button reads the number in words, and a tick reads every number aloud, with the browser's own voice.
- Bingo 1–75. The B-I-N-G-O letter on the reels, a called board in five rows, and a switch to call automatically every 5 to 15 seconds.
- Digits mode. A number of one to seven digits is uncovered one place at a time from the left, each in its place colour, then shown in words and expanded form (400 + 10 + 2). A Digit draw game gives one digit at a time and then the greatest and smallest numbers the digits make.
- Line up. Every number in the range, minus anyone away, in a fair random order with 1st, 2nd and 3rd beside each, ready to copy.
- Guess my number. The machine hides a number; the class calls guesses, and a big arrow says higher or lower while a bar shows what's still possible. It shows how many guesses are always enough (seven for 1 to 100), which is the halving lesson inside the game.

That's why it now sits first in our own list. Where it falls short: no wheel, no weighted numbers and no decimals, the board stops at 100 numbers, and there's no embed for a school website.

The rules stay the same: free, no ads, no sign-in, nothing leaving your browser. Try the random number generator, see the full Top 20 list, or, if you teach reading too, have a look at Peabody's free stories.

Questions

What is the best free random number generator for teachers?

We rank Peabody's own generator first for a classroom: no repeats, a board where you tap away absent numbers, big reels, digits, bingo, line-up and guess-my-number modes, and no ads. Of the others, Picker Wheel's Number Picker Wheel is the best: it draws without repeats, can skip numbers you list and has a digits mode, though the free version shows ads. Planit Teachers' generator also draws without repeats and shows the number large.

How do I pick a student by number without repeating anyone?

Number the class once, set the range from 1 to the size of the class, and turn on no repeats or elimination. To leave out students who are away, tap their numbers on Peabody's board, or use a tool with an exclude list, such as Picker Wheel or Givebutter.

Are online random number generators really random?

Most use a computer formula, which is fine for a class draw. RANDOM.ORG says its numbers come from atmospheric noise, RapidTables and Wheel of Names say they use the browser's secure generator, and RandomNumberGenerator.com says it uses Math.random on its server.

Can I use a random number generator for a prize raffle?

For a class prize, yes. Givebutter and SpinAndWheel both say their tools aren't certified for regulated raffles, and SpinAndWheel notes that raffles which sell tickets may need a permit depending on local rules. For a formal draw, check your local rules first.

Which random number generators have no ads?

RANDOM.ORG and Bingo Card Creator's bingo caller say they carry no ads, and Peabody's generator shows none. Toy Theater, NumberGenerator.org, Picker Wheel, Comment Picker and SpinAndWheel show ads or sell an ad-free upgrade. For several others, the page we read didn't say.
