



Access English Centre  
Immigrant Centre Manitoba  
Multi-level: Warm-up or Cool-Down Activity  
All in Order  
15 minutes



**Objective/Goal:**

This warm-up activity aimed at creating a warm, informal learning environment. It gives an opportunity for participants to practice asking questions using "Wh" - questions.

**Materials:**

Participants need:

**Optional-Activity Variation #4:**  
pennies/dimes (for small classes  
of 12 or less)

Facilitator needs:

- Whiteboard
- Whiteboard markers

**Procedure:**

1. The facilitator **explains** that the goal of this activity is for the participants to arrange themselves in a line-in order from when they came to Canada:  
"When did you come to Canada?"
2. The facilitator can **write** the question on the whiteboard.
3. **Demonstrate.**
4. After the class has arranged themselves, the facilitator **asks** the class to say together, "How long ago did you come to Canada?" to each person in line. Each person **answers** the question.
5. Afterwards, the facilitator can **ask** the participants various questions according to the information gathered by them.  
Ex. Who came to Canada first? How many people came to Canada in January? etc.

Question Variation: The facilitator can **choose** a participant to ask questions to the class.

- Variation #1: If *all your participants are under 30 years old*, you can use age as the topic. Have the class arrange themselves in alphabetical order by their birth date-by month, by day, or year.
  - 1. The facilitator **explains** that the goal of this activity is for the participants to arrange themselves in a line-in order: from youngest to oldest by asking one of the following questions:

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- When is your birthdate?
- When is your birthday?
- Which year were you born?
- How old are you?

These questions can be prompted (explained) or brainstormed together. The facilitator can write the questions on the whiteboard.

- **Demonstrate.**
- After the class has arranged themselves, the facilitator **asks** the class to say together, "How old are you?" or "When is your birthdate?" to each person in line. Each person answers the question.
- Afterwards, the facilitator can **ask** the participants various questions according to the information gathered by them. Ex. Who is the oldest? How many people have birthdays in December? etc.
- Variation #2: Instead of age as the topic. Have the class **arrange** themselves in alphabetical **order by first name or last name**.
- Variation #3: **Arrange** the class **by the country they came from** in alphabetical order. (ex. China, Eritrea, Ethiopia, etc.)

Variation #4: (for classes of 12 or less)

- 1) **Give** each student **a penny/dime**.
- 2) **Instruct** them to arrange themselves in order by year.
- 3) **Ask** questions about the pennies/dimes that they received (ex. Which year do you have? Were you born in that year? Is there a year that is special to you?, etc.

Variation #5

- 1) **Instruct** the participants to bring in their own personal photos or any items from their home country.
- 2) **Divide** the class into small groups of 3 or 4.
- 3) **Have** each participant talk about their personal photos or items.
- 4) Each member of the small groups will take turns **asking** questions about the photos or items.
- 5) **Have** the participant **place** the photos or items in order of events as they are explaining them to their small group members.