

# Buzz Groups

Students discuss a **focused question in small spontaneous groups** (3–5 participants) for a short, **intensive exchange** (“buzz”). The goal is **rapid activation, idea generation, or problem-solving** before returning to plenary discussion.

**Complexity :** 

**Group size:** large

**Format:** all formats

## Learning objectives / benefits

- **Activate all** students simultaneously
- Generate **diverse perspectives** quickly
- Encourage **collaborative problem-solving**
- Support **peer explanation of concepts**

## Implementation

- **When to use:**
  - After presenting a problem
  - Before plenary debate
  - To analyse a short case
  - To generate examples or applications
- **Procedure:**
  - Provide a very clear and focused task
  - Group building: depending on the set-up and time frame define groups
  - Set strict time frame (1–10 minutes)
  - Assign roles if helpful (moderator, note-taker)
  - Collect 1–2 key points per group
- **Online/Hybrid:**
  - Breakout rooms with visible countdown
  - Shared collaborative board
  - Clear instructions before splitting

## Recommendations

- Keep tasks specific and manageable.
- **Avoid vague discussion** prompts.
- **Time discipline** is crucial.
- In large international groups, **define who works together** clearly.
- Combine with **follow-up synthesis** by the instructor.
- Ideal as an **energizer in longer sessions** (especially online).
- Group building: the easiest way is **“talk to your neighbor”** to create intercultural groups with different backgrounds and perspectives
- **Flexible time frames:** “What do you think? Exchange for one minute.”

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