

Mystery object: five clues

A five-minute speaking and listening game for an adult and child. Choose a familiar, safe household object and keep it out of the guesser's sight. No screens or special equipment needed.

1. Choose your secret object

An adult checks the object is suitable. Try a sock, a wooden spoon or a toy car. Keep it hidden until the clues are finished.

2. Describe it without naming it

Say or write one clue for each prompt. The listener waits until the end. Example for a sock: "It is soft" is a clue; "It is a sock" gives it away!

1. What does it look like?

2. What does it feel like?

3. What is it used for?

4. Where might you find it?

5. What is it similar to?

3. Guess, explain and swap

The listener says: "I think it is ____ because ____." Reveal the object. Ask: "Which clue helped most?" Then swap roles with a new object.

Make it fit: use two clues and offer two objects to choose between for younger children. Older children can add a comparison or improve a vague clue. Talk or draw instead of writing. There is no score.