

Same But Different

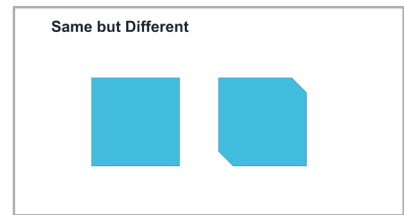
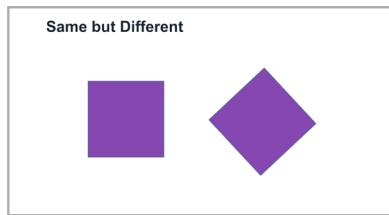
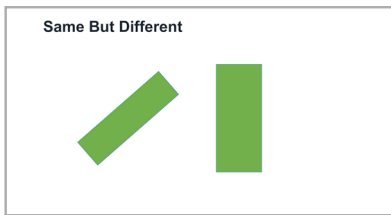
Players 1-4 Ages 3+ 5-10 min

GOAL

To notice and talk about how two objects or pictures are the same and how they are different.

MATERIALS

Same But Different Cards or any other materials you'd like to use.



VOCABULARY

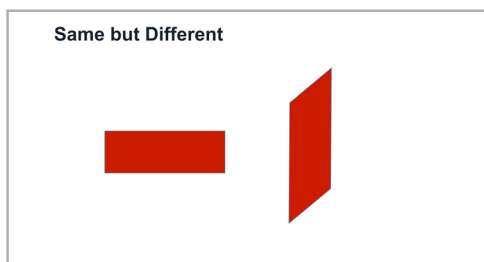
Same
Different

QUESTIONS

What do you notice?
How are these the same?
How are these different?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Show a Same But Different card or two other items of your choice.



OR



2. Ask, "How are these the same?"
3. Encourage children to share lots of ideas and share your own.
4. Ask, "How are these different?"
5. There can be many right answers. Encourage children to come up with as many ways as they can to describe how the objects are the same and how they are different. Have fun being creative.

Here are two examples:



Same	Different
Both are liquids	One is orange, the other clear
Both liquids are in glasses	One glass is tall, the other short
Both are more than half full	The orange one is more full than the clear one
Both have circular tops and bottoms	One glass is narrow, the other is wider



Same	Different
Both have four sides	One is wider, the other is taller
Both have four vertices	One is smaller than the other
Both are green	One is a rectangle, the other isn't
Both have two long sides and two short sides	One has right angles, like a piece of paper, the other doesn't

TIPS FOR PLAYING

- Encourage players to use as many words as they can to describe what they see—smooshed, turned, side, corner, straight, colors, and so on. Some children might start out by pointing to what they notice about same and different. You can model how to use descriptive words to describe what they're pointing to. For example, "Oh, you're noticing that this triangle looks more stretched and narrow, compared to the other one that looks like it has three sides that are the same length."

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- By answering and asking questions, children are building their vocabulary and language skills. And, they are practicing an important mathematical habit of mind—giving precise descriptions of what they see using evidence.
- When describing shapes, encourage children to focus their attention on the shapes' attributes—straight or curved sides; number of sides; length of sides; number of corners or vertices; size of the angles; and other attributes. Identifying what is the same and what is different is key to sorting larger collections of objects into smaller sets.
- For more ideas, visit [Same But Different Math](#).

MATH TOPICS

Shapes and Geometry

VIDEO



Watch Game Video

View the QR code in your smartphone's camera app or QR code reader to watch a video that shows how to play *Same But Different*.