

# Drawing Games: Get Thinking!

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Art is meant to get you thinking. These five activities will give your brain a workout and give you opportunities to use your imagination and learn to trust your instincts. Drawing “well” isn’t required; everyone can draw. Drawing is just mark-making. Try out these games to loosen up and have fun!

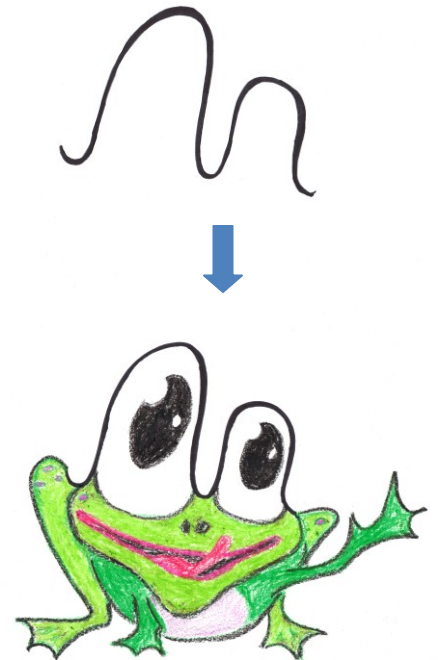
1. What is this Line?
2. Picture Charades
3. Look, No Hands!
4. Blind Contour
5. Object in a Bag

## 1. What is this Line?

Draw a squiggly line on a piece of paper. You can make multiple copies so that everyone uses the same line, or everyone can draw a unique line. Pass the lines around (make sure that no one has the line they drew).

Everyone will now decide what they think their line looks like (a shape, object, creature, and so on), and use it to create a doodle: the more imaginative the better! Everyone will be seeing different things, so there should be a great variety in doodles.

When you’re finished, pin up the group’s drawings and compare them.



## 2. Picture Charades

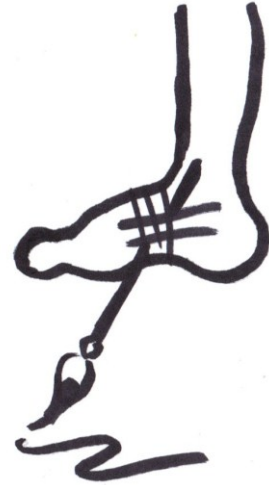
Charades with drawings!

- 1.) Put a bunch of words in a hat or bucket and mix them around.
- 2.) Divide the group into two teams.
- 3.) One person will pick a word out of the hat, and draw it on a board or large paper. Their team has 1 minute to guess the word. After 1 minute, the opposing team gets to join in the guessing!
- 4.) Whichever team guesses correctly gets a point! If the correct answer isn’t guessed within 2 minutes, the point will go to the opposing team.
- 5.) The team with the most points at the end of the game wins!

### 3. Look, No Hands!

Set out a variety of art supplies. You can include things like markers, ink and brushes, chalk or crayons, and various papers. Just make sure to add some tape and/or string.

Each person is going to create a drawing, using whatever materials they want. They can use any body part they want, **except their hands**. **No hands**. This is a fun way to explore different ways of making marks. Encourage the group to get moving and use broad body movements to make their drawings. The marks will probably be abstract and loose, which is great. Participants can always go back later and add more detail to their work.



### 4. Blind Contour

A contour drawing is made up of lines and shapes. It is essentially the outline of a subject, focused on form rather than on detail. For example, when drawing eyes you will include the lines around the eyes or eyelashes, but no actual shading. A contour drawing can then be worked up to create a more detailed picture.

Start this exercise by separating the group into pairs. This can be a great icebreaker if the partners have never met before. Here are the rules:

- 1.) Using a marker or a soft pencil, each person will have to draw their partner's face. Remember, only draw the lines! No shading.
- 2.) **You can't lift your pencil off the paper.** The drawing will be one continuous line.
- 3.) **You can't look at your paper while you're drawing.** This is a BLIND contour, after all. This is a challenge, but it's great for developing spatial awareness and training your brain.
- 4.) Take your time! Try to make the drawing last a few minutes while you get the shapes of your partners face.



Remind your group to relax; this drawing is SUPPOSED to be wobbly and all over the place. Later, you can get them to add shading and colour. Maybe they'll work it up into something really interesting! People often get too focused on details when drawing. Everyone can draw.

## 5. Object in a Bag

Put a variety of small objects into individual paper bags. Keep the objects simple, like a mechanical pencil, a hand mirror, or a stuffed toy. The important thing is that the object can't be seen through the bag.

- 1.) Give each person a bag. Have them feel the object without looking inside the bag to see what it is. They'll try to draw what they feel. When they're done, they can take the object out of the bag and see how close they came.
- 2.) Separate the group into pairs and give each pair a bag. Without looking inside the bag, one person will touch the object and describe what they feel to their partner. The catch is that they can't just say "this is a mechanical pencil"; they can only use words to describe shape or texture (for example: "There's a long, smooth cylinder with a point on one end and a rubbery tip on the other"). The simpler the object, the easier this will be. When finished, the partners switch roles.