

What it looks like in practice

Eight routines from UK and US teachers on X between 17 Sep 2024 and 17 Sep 2026. Each row is a claim, labelled reported practice, practitioner claim or objection. The evidence column is a fetched page or a named paper, not the post. UK and US stay on the row. The live article already covers pose then name, wait time, no opt out and lolly sticks as a tool. These rows add all hands up, targeted choice, the gotcha fight, and the US stick lottery.

ROUTINE	TEACHER MOVE	WHAT YOU WOULD NOTICE	WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS	REPORTED BY
All hands up ● reported practice	Ask the question. Every hand goes up. Then choose a name. The room shows who is thinking before anyone speaks.	A Year 4 class with hands in the air, not a silent no-hands-up default. The teacher still chooses.	A classroom claim, not a trial. Pritesh Raichura, Bunsen Blue, 8 Apr 2023 (fetched): all hands up is buy-in; no hands up is only "I could be picked." The article already covers no-hands-up. This row is the UK primary swap.	@teachingwrens 19 Sep 2024 · UK "I've been using 'all hands up' cold calling this year with Y4, as opposed to 'hands down'. Such a positive difference!" open post
Pose, wait, warm invite ● reported practice	Plan the question. Tell the class they will be asked. Pose it. Leave silent thinking time. Then invite, do not interrogate.	A pause you can hear. The name comes last. Nobody is caught mid-thought.	Durrington Research School, 6 Mar 2025 (fetched): pause time in schools is still around 0.7 to 1.4 seconds. Rowe (1986) is already on the article. This row is the warm-invitation script teachers posted, not the wait-time paper.	@helenrey 28 Feb 2026 · UK "How to get them to think/participate? Cold calling - plan great questions - tell them to expect questions - pose a question, provide silent thinking time - (warm) invitation, not interrogation" open post
Targeted, not a lottery ● practitioner claim	Choose who answers after think time. Do not draw a stick. The question is aimed, not randomised.	No pot of names on the desk. A learner who just practised the idea is asked next.	Teach Like a Champion, 7 Sep 2025 (fetched): "We don't recommend randomly calling on students or 'pulling a popsicle stick' to determine who answers next." The article lists lolly sticks as a possible tool. UK teachers in this listen are walking away from them.	@mrJ_JonesPE 11 Aug 2026 · UK "Great thread. Although I disagree re lollipop sticks. Nothing should be left to random including questioning. Teachers should be targeting their cold call questions" open post
Calm, not a gotcha ● practitioner claim	Make the ask predictable. Give thinking time. The aim is more voices in the thinking, not catching someone out.	A quiet pause. A named share. No snap "what did I just say?"	Morek, Heller and Kinalzik (2023), <i>Language and Education</i> 37(6), DOI 10.1080/09500782.2022.2155474: 86 cold-calling events, German grade 5, two postures. Collaborative invitation versus moral obligation. Edutopia, 26 Apr 2023 (fetched) summarises the same split. Not a UK classroom trial.	@dnleslie 11 Aug 2026 · UK "... But it should be calm, predictable and supported by thinking time. The aim is not to catch pupils out. It is to include more pupils in the thinking." open post
Teacher chooses, not the hand ● practitioner claim	Do not smuggle two extra rules into the term. Pose-pause-name and random selection are add-ons. The teacher still chooses.	Hands may be up. The teacher still picks. A volunteer is not the gate.	This is a definition fight, not a trial. Boxer, 31 Jan 2026: people treat pose-pause-name or random choice as the definition. Those are add-ons. The visible text of the post stops at "putting the name at the"; the rest is a note-tweet we could not read, so this row uses only the syndicated lines. Lemov's own 2017 field note already split popsicle sticks from cold call. Dallimore, Hertenstein and Platt (2013), DOI 10.1177/1052562912446067, is a US college discussion study. It does not settle a UK science classroom.	@adamboxer1 31 Jan 2026 · UK "I consistently see people refer to Cold Call as "pose the question, pause, then choose a student" Or "choosing students at random."" open post

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Volunteers first, then quieter voices ● objection	Start with hands. Then ask some who did not volunteer. A no-volunteers rule is treated as a sledgehammer.	The same confident voices still go first. Quieter learners wait for a second pass that may not come.	The replies disagree, which is the finding. @teacherhead, 25 Jul 2026: cold call several first, then ask volunteers to add. No trial of a no-volunteers policy. The EEF Embedding Formative Assessment RCT (140 English secondaries, +2 months on Attainment 8) is a whole-school programme, not a cold-call trial (EEF page, fetched).	@thefish64 25 Jul 2026 · UK "Hmm. In over 30 years teaching, I've always started with volunteers but then moved on to asking some who don't put their hands up. Surely let's not use the sledgehammer of "no volunteering answers allowed"" open post
Expected, so it is safe ● reported practice	US: run cold call every day with turn and talk, so the class expects it. Name last. Correct yourself in public if the name slips out first.	A grades 5 to 8 STEM room where the ask is ordinary. A filmed slip: name before the read, then a public correction.	US listen. Dallimore et al. (2013) found more voluntary talk in high cold-calling college classes. That is not a K-12 trial. Morek et al. (2023) still split invitation from trap. The US teacher frame here is predictability, not a randomiser.	@AmberBHaven 23 Jan 2026 · US "... Ss expect Cold Calling in our classroom. It's not a "gotcha," it's safe." open post
Sticks so nobody is picked on ● reported practice	US: draw a popsicle stick or "equity stick" so the class cannot say you are targeting someone. UK teachers in this listen reject that lottery.	A cup of named sticks. A learner at the board after a random draw. The hardware is the pedagogy.	TLAC, 7 Sep 2025 (fetched): do not pull a stick. The 2017 Lemov field note said the same. US teachers still call the sticks cold calling. That gap is the finding, not a trial of cups.	@TawniaCourage 9 Jun 2026 · US "I picked from popsicle sticks with their names on them so I wouldn't be accused of 'picking on' only certain students" open post
What was not found. UK listen, 40 searches, 35 evidenced posts, and US listen, 41 searches, 34 evidenced posts, 17 Sep 2024 to 17 Sep 2026: no KS3, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 or Year 11 named with cold call; no sixth-form teacher describing their own seminar; no SENCO posting an exemption in their own voice; no EHCP named; no photo of a lolly-stick pot used for questioning; no US kindergarten name-stick calling chart; no US classroom post pairing cold call with ELL, IEP or 504; no Ofsted requirement to cold call.				

Every quote is verbatim from a named account. A tweet is a claim. Country of @thefish64 is taken from the UK listen. Nothing here is a trial of the routine. The EEF +2 months figure is Attainment 8 for the whole EFA programme, fetched 17 Sep 2026.