## Card Sort

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Card Sort is an activity in which student group a set of cards with words or pictures into certain categories. As students sort cards according to characteristics, they discuss reasons for placing each card into a particular category. This activity may be used to pre-assess student knowledge about a certain concept or idea in order to determine student pre-conceptions or misconceptions. It may also be used as a post-assessment in order to determine what knowledge students have gained from a unit or series of lessons.

**How to implement the strategy:**

1. Determine whether this activity will be used as pre or post assessment.
2. Prepare sets of cards that align with lesson objectives (1 set per group of no more than 5 students).
3. Provide headers for each of the categories for students to use when sorting.
4. Student groups should dialogue about each card prior to placing within a category. (Students justify why a card belongs to a specific category.)
5. Have students lay out cards in rows or columns with category headers to show the visual part of card sort.
6. Instruct students to record their card sort visual in a notebook (or other device).

NOTE: Alter this activity by not giving students category headers; instead, have students read the cards and determine how they would sort them and what category headers they would use for their rows/columns.

**Additional resources:**
- Keeley, P. & Tobey, C. (2011). Mathematics Formative Assessment: 75 Practical Strategies for Linking Assessment, Instruction and Learning. USA, Corwin.

- Keeley, P. (2008). Science Formative Assessment: 75 Practical Strategies for Linking Assessment, Instruction and Learning. USA, Corwin.