EduDrop · Teacher guide

Writing lessons and asking questions

How to build an EduDrop lesson, Block by Block, and every way to hear from your students: polls, quizzes, word clouds, short answers and more.

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Works offline · Any browser · Same Wi-Fi or hotspot

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1 How a lesson works

Your phone or laptop runs the class. Students join from any browser on the same Wi-Fi by scanning the QR code: no app, no accounts, no internet needed.

A lesson is a list of **Blocks**. A Block is one step of the lesson: a text to read, a task, a picture, a question. You send Blocks one at a time with the big **Dispatch next ▶** button, and every student's screen changes straight away.

Each Block has

- a **title**
- a **mode**: who sees what
- the **text** students see

It can also have

- one **question** for students
- a **timer**
- pictures, PDFs, sound, video

Students can

- answer the question
- tap **Mark as done**
- open files you link

2 Two ways to make a lesson

Easiest

In the app: Lessons → + New lesson

1. Press **+ Add a Block** and pick a ready-made Block: Blank, Warm-up question, Read and answer, Timed task, Compare A / B, Jigsaw, Word cloud, Short answer or Exit ticket.
2. Give it a title, choose **who sees what**, and type the text. The toolbar does bold, lists, links, pictures, files and video.
3. Under **Question for students**, pick a kind and type the question.
4. **Save**, then press the eye to preview it as students will see it.
5. **Teach this lesson** starts the class.

You never have to type the special lines below: the app writes them for you.

For typing or AI tools

As a text file (`.md`)

A lesson is a plain-text **markdown** file. You can write one in any text editor, or ask an AI assistant to write it using the rules in this guide.

- In the app: **Lessons → Import .md / .zip**.
- With pictures or PDFs: put `lesson.md` and the files in one folder and **zip** it.
- The **Markdown** tab of any lesson shows its file, and you can edit it there.

> **Tip:** both ways make the same file. Build in the app, peek at the Markdown tab, and you'll learn the format quickly.

3 Getting students connected

Students' phones must be on the **same Wi-Fi or hotspot** as your device. The QR code on the class page opens EduDrop, but only on that network: it can't join the network for them.

First choice

Shared Wi-Fi

You and the students join the school or classroom Wi-Fi. No extra kit.

If nobody can open the page while it works on your device, this Wi-Fi blocks devices from talking to each other. Use a hotspot or a travel router instead.

Small groups

Your phone's hotspot

Turn on your phone's hotspot, then open EduDrop on the same phone. Students join your hotspot.

Most phones allow about **10 devices**. Students on your hotspot could also reach the internet through your mobile data.

Big classes, no Wi-Fi

A travel router

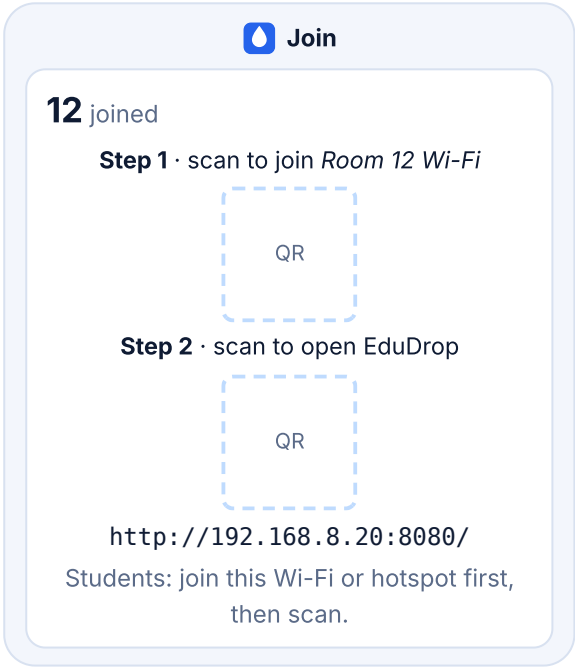
A small pocket router makes its own Wi-Fi. You and the students join it. Works with no internet at all.

In the router's settings, "AP isolation" (or "client isolation") must be **off**.

On the class page: the Join card

1. **Turn on your hotspot or join the Wi-Fi** first. If the Join card says *"No network found"*, this is the step that's missing.
2. **Optional:** open **Add Wi-Fi / hotspot details for students**, type the network name and password, and press **Show Wi-Fi QR**. Tick **Remember on this device** to keep them for next time.
3. The card now shows two codes. Students scan **Step 1** to join the network (the phone camera offers "Join network"), then **Step 2** to open EduDrop, and type their name.
4. No Wi-Fi details? Then there is one code: students join the network first, then scan it.

> **About the password.** Anyone who can see your screen can scan the Wi-Fi code: it's like reading the password aloud. It stays on your device and never appears on students' screens. You can change a personal hotspot's password after class.



If students can't connect

You see...	Try this
"No network found"	Turn on your hotspot or connect your device to Wi-Fi.
"Nobody has joined yet"	Check the students are on the **same** Wi-Fi or hotspot as you (not a guest or staff network next to it).
The code opens nothing on any student phone	The Wi-Fi blocks devices from talking to each other. Switch to your hotspot or a travel router.
The address looks wrong	Use **Wrong network? Pick another address** under the code.
Last week's link doesn't work	The address can change each lesson: always scan today's code.

4 The lesson file

A header, then one `# Block:` heading per Block. Settings go on the lines right under the heading; the text students see comes after a blank line.

```
---
title: Photosynthesis                      ← the lesson's name
topics: [Light reactions, Calvin cycle]    ← only for jigsaw Blocks
---

# Block: Warm-up                           ← starts a Block, with its title
mode: broadcast                            ← who sees what (optional)
poll: Have you grown a plant? | Yes | No   ← a question (optional)
timer: 3 min                               ← a timer (optional)

What do plants need to grow? Write **three** things.

# Block: Compare
mode: split

## A
Read about C3 plants.

## B
Read about C4 plants.
```

- **The header** between the `---` lines is optional. It can only hold `title:` and `topics:`.
- Settings (`mode:`, a question, `timer:`) must be **lowercase** and come **straight under** the `# Block:` line.
- Blocks are sent in the order they appear. Everything after the header must be inside a Block.
- A title with `#` in it needs quotes: `title: "Year 9 #2"`.

5 Who sees what: the four modes

mode:	Who sees what	The Block must contain
`broadcast`	Everyone sees the same thing. (The default.)	Some text.
`split`	The class is split into two halves, **A** and **B**. Each half sees its own version.	Exactly `## A` then `## B`, with nothing before `## A`.
`expert`	Jigsaw, step 1: each student sees the section for their topic.	One `## Topic` section per topic, named and ordered **exactly** as in `topics:`.
`home`	Jigsaw, step 2: everyone sees the same text, sitting in mixed home groups with one expert per topic.	Some text, and `topics:` in the header.

Students keep their A/B half and their topic for the whole lesson. Home groups are made the first time a `home` Block is sent (or with **Form home groups**) and never change. Latecomers are slotted in for you. Inside `split` and `expert` Blocks, use `###` for headings: `##` starts a new section.

6 Questions for students

Every Block can ask **one** question. Write it on one line under the `# Block:` heading. Students answer under the Block's text while that Block is showing, and you watch the answers arrive live.

📊 Poll `poll:`

Students vote. No answer is right. Answers are separated by `|` (2 to 6).

```
poll: Which reading was easier? | Reading A | Reading B
```

Students can change their vote. You choose when to show the totals.

✅ Quiz `quiz:`

Multiple choice with one right answer: put `*` after it.

```
quiz: What do plants take in? | Oxygen | Carbon dioxide * | Nitrogen
```

Nobody can see the right answer until you press **Reveal the answer**. Then answers lock.

👍 Yes / No `yesno:`

A quick 👍 Yes / 👎 No vote. Just the question.

```
yesno: Ready to move on?
```

Great for checking understanding before the next step.

😀 How's it going? `feelings:`

Smiley faces: Lost · Not sure · Getting there · Got it.

```
feelings: How well do you understand this now?
```

`feelings:` on its own asks "How are you finding this?"

☁️ Word cloud `words:`

Each student types a word or two (up to 3 words). The most common words show biggest.

```
words: One word that sums up today
```

"Light" and "light" count as the same word. Tap a word to hide it.

✎ Short answer `text:`

Each student writes a sentence or two (up to 280 characters).

```
text: Why do puddles dry up on a sunny day?
```

You see the answers without names. Show them to the class, still without names.

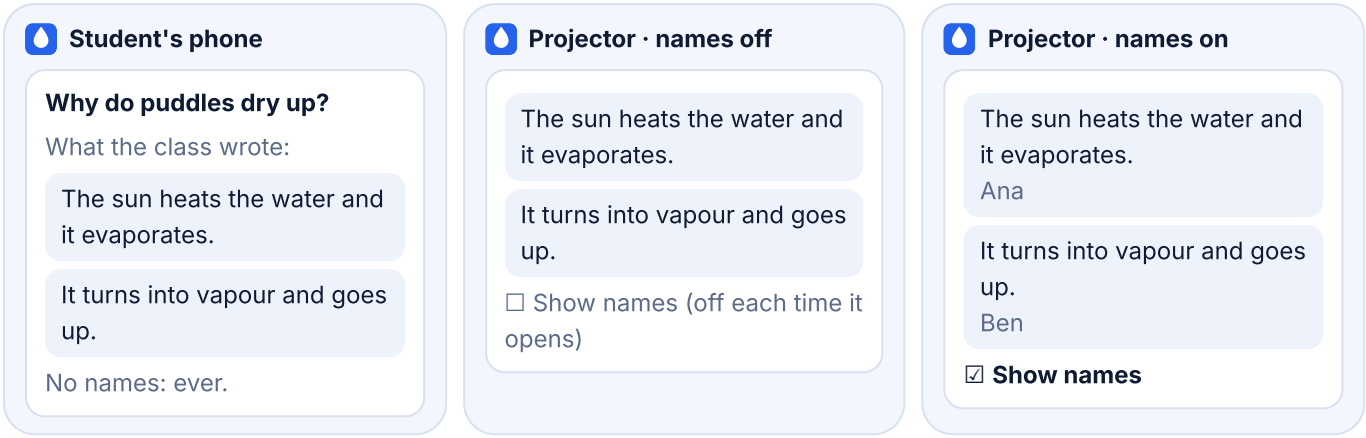
Line	Students	You see	Right answer?
`poll:`	tap one answer (2–6)	live counts and %	no
`quiz:`	tap one answer	live counts; reveal when ready	yes, the one with `*`
`yesno:`	tap 👍 or 👎	live counts	no
`feelings:`	tap a face	how the class feels	no
`words:`	type up to 3 words	a word cloud	no
`text:`	type a short answer	a list of answers	no

Showing results. Until you press **Show results to students** (or **Reveal the answer**, **Show the cloud**, **Show the answers**), students only see their own answer. ⛶ **Full screen** shows the results big for the projector.

Rules. One question per Block. No `|` inside an answer. A Block with a question still needs some text. Common English swear words are refused in typed answers, and you can hide anything that gets through.

7 Names and privacy

Every answer is kept with the name of the student who gave it, so you can follow up. But names stay off anything students or a projector can see, unless you choose otherwise.



- **Class page:** answers and words appear **without names**, so it's safe if your screen is projected.
- ⛶ **Full screen:** tick **Show names** to see who chose each answer or wrote each word or sentence. It's unticked again every time you open full screen.
- **Students** never see other students' names or individual answers, only the totals, cloud or answer list you choose to show.
- **Hide anything:** tap a word or an answer on the class page. It disappears for students and on the projector; tap again to bring it back.
- Students are told on their screen that their teacher sees their name with what they type.

8 Timers

Add a countdown to a Block: it starts when the Block is sent, and everyone sees it at the top of their screen.

```
timer: 10 min              ← or timer: 2:30 (minutes:seconds)
timer: 8 min, then next    ← sends the next Block by itself when time is up
```

- While it runs you can **Pause**, **+1 min**, **Stop** or **Don't move on**. ⛶ **Full screen** shows the clock big.
- The last Block never moves on by itself: you finish the class.
- In the app it's the ⏱ **Timer** tick box under each Block. On the class page, **Timer** also starts a quick 1, 3, 5 or 10 minute countdown at any time.

9 Text, pictures, files and video

In the app, use the toolbar. In a file, use these markdown shortcuts.

Type this	To get
`**important**` · `*gentle*`	**bold** · *italic*
`### Step 1`	a small heading
`- item` · `1. item`	a bulleted list · a numbered list
`> A quote`	a quote
`[the worksheet](worksheet.pdf)`	a link to a file in the lesson (PDFs open in EduDrop's viewer)
`![A labelled leaf](img/leaf.png)`	a picture, shown in the Block (the words describe it)
`![The experiment](experiment.mp4)`	a video player (`.mp4` works everywhere)
`![The song](song.mp3)`	a sound player (`.mp3` works everywhere)
`[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org)`	a website (only works if the Wi-Fi has internet)

- Files in the lesson are served by your device, so they work **without internet**. File names are **case-sensitive**: `Worksheet.pdf` ≠ `worksheet.pdf`.
- A link inside `## A` of a split Block is only shown to group A.
- **Keep files small:** 30 students × a 20 MB PDF is 600 MB over the classroom Wi-Fi. Photos taken in the app are shrunk for you.
- No underline, colours or font sizes: the lesson file can't keep them.

10 During the class

None of these need any preparation. They are on the class page whenever you want them.

Check in. Ask everyone right now: 😀 How's it going?, 👍 Yes / No, A / B, A / B / C / D, ☁ Word cloud or ✎ Short answer. Type the question or just ask it out loud. It stays on screens until you press **Close**.

Share a file. Send a file to everyone, group A or B, one topic's experts or one home group. It appears under "From your teacher". **Stop sharing** removes it.

Hands up. Tick **Students can raise a hand**. Your top bar shows only "✋ 3": names are under **Hands & messages**, in the order hands went up.

Messages. Tick **Students can message me**. Nothing pops up: the top bar shows only "✉ 2 new". Messages are never anonymous.

Jump around. Tap any Block in the list to send it, or press ◀ **Back**.

Finish. After the last Block, press **Finish class** 🎉 (with confetti if you like). A dropped Wi-Fi never ends the class: students just see "Reconnecting...".

11 A complete example

This lesson comes with the app as **"The water cycle"**. It uses a poll, a word cloud, a timer, two short answers, a quiz and a Yes / No. Copy it as a starting point.

```
---
title: The water cycle
---

# Block: Warm-up poll
poll: Where does the rain come from? | The sea | Clouds | Rivers and lakes | Not sure

Look out of the window (or picture a rainy day). Vote: where does rain come from?

# Block: In one word
words: One word you think of when you hear "water cycle"

Type **one word** (or two). Then we'll look at the class word cloud.

# Block: Read
timer: 4 min

### The water cycle in four steps

1. **Evaporation**: the sun warms water, and it turns into water vapour.
2. **Condensation**: high up, the vapour cools into tiny droplets: clouds.
3. **Precipitation**: the droplets join up and fall as rain, snow or hail.
4. **Collection**: the water runs into rivers, lakes and the sea, and it starts again.

# Block: Explain it
text: In your own words: why do puddles disappear on a sunny day?

Write a sentence or two.

# Block: Check
quiz: What is it called when water vapour turns into droplets? | Evaporation | Condensation *
| Collection

Pick one answer. You'll find out when your teacher reveals it.

# Block: Ready to move on?
yesno: Could you explain the water cycle to a friend?

Be honest: this helps your teacher decide what to do next.

# Block: Exit ticket
text: One question you still have about the water cycle

Anything you're still wondering about. There are no wrong questions.
```

Using an AI assistant? Give it pages 4–6 of this guide and ask: "Write an EduDrop lesson in markdown about *your topic*, with a warm-up poll, a word cloud, a short reading with a timer, a short answer question and a quiz." Then import the `.md` file and check it in the app.

12 When a lesson won't load

EduDrop checks the whole lesson first and lists every problem with its line or Block number. Nothing changes until the lesson loads cleanly. The usual causes:

Message says...	Fix
unknown front-matter key `topic`	It's `topics`, plural. Only `title:` and `topics:` are allowed in the header.
split Blocks need exactly `## A` then `## B`	Add both sections, in that order, with nothing before `## A`.
expert sections must match the topics, in order	Name each `##` section exactly as in `topics:` (same spelling and order).
Block has no content	Every Block needs some text, even one with a question.
a poll needs 2 to 6 answers	Separate the answers with `|`. A quiz needs exactly one answer ending in `*`.
`'words:'` / `'text:'` takes only a question	Remove the `|` answers: students type their own.
file 'worksheet.pdf' is not in the lesson package	Check the spelling and capitals, or add the file. A lesson with files must be a folder or a `.zip`.

13 Quick reference

Line (straight under `# Block:`)	What it does
`# Block: Title`	starts a new Block
`mode: broadcast` · `split` · `expert` · `home`	who sees what (default: broadcast)
`poll: Question | A | B | C`	a vote, 2–6 answers
`quiz: Question | A | B * | C`	multiple choice; `*` marks the right one
`yesno: Question`	👍 Yes / 👎 No
`feelings: Question`	smiley faces (question optional)
`words: Question`	word cloud, up to 3 words each
`text: Question`	short answer, up to 280 characters
`timer: 5 min` · `timer: 2:30`	a countdown when the Block is sent
`timer: 5 min, then next`	...and send the next Block by itself

Header (optional): `title: Lesson name` · `topics: [Topic 1, Topic 2]` for jigsaw lessons.
One question and one timer per Block. Settings are lowercase. Text for students comes after a blank line.