

The Use of Plickers: As a Formative Assessment in English Language Education

Shee Yuen Ling¹

¹ University of Malaya;  <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-9431-4832>

Abstract: In a big classroom, it is often hard for the educator to focus on every student. Educators also find difficulty to do analysis and follow up on the remedial program. Plickers can recognise the students' responses depending on which way a student wears the Plickers ring because it is rotatable (with option A, B, C and D). The educator scans the room using the mobile device offline, the name of the student and the response for each question will be recorded on the screen of the smart device. A bar graph will appear so the educator can view the whole group data as well. The number of participants scanned is also provided to make certain that all students have responded. All responses will be analysed. It makes a good fun "flying in the air" assessment tool. It is a very reliable product for the future assessment programmes in education.

Keywords: Plickers; Formative assessment; Data



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Submitted for open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

1. INTRODUCTION

Data is an essential component in education, yet sometimes it can be a necessary evil for educators. Passing out the materials and grading individual student responses can be a time consuming task. As the year goes on a teacher's attitude toward data collection may change and decline as assessment becomes more overwhelming. Plickers allows educators to gather, analyze, and save data in a brief time. It can be used without Internet connection in the class. It does not require students to have any technology, making it essentially free and easy.

Plickers is a fun learning and assessment tool to engage all students in critical thinking. It is an interactive tool as it gives all students the chance to participate and engage in learning. No one is left behind. It is a good data-collection tool for analysis. The result is helpful for creating the follow-up activities. It is a simple product that has awesome possibilities, to be used for formative assessment, game, questionnaire, survey and quiz. It allows instant feedback for every question asked. The use of Plickers ring card is to avoid students wrongly hold the card and the scanner failed to detect the answer.

1.1 Significance of Study

The use of Plickers can assess and engage all students learning for varied subjects (as everyone holds his/her smart ring in hand). It collects instant feedback for the instruction given and make a good data-collection tool). It enables the educators to create some follow-up activities based on the analysis results to increase students' competency in the subject. The following are the benefits the use of Plickers and the Plickers QR smart rings:

- i. Engage all students in critical thinking (interactive)

- ii. Give all students the chance to participate and engage in learning
- iii. A good data-collection tool (poll)
- iv. Focus more on teaching, less on set-up
- v. Give instant feedback for the instruction given
- vi. Fun learning
- vii. Check students' understanding of the content taught
- viii. Create follow-up activities based on the results
- ix. A good fun assessment tool
- x. Be a simple product that has awesome possibilities (assessment, game, questionnaire, quiz) in the classroom

1.2 Research Questions

- i. To what extent, the use of Plickers can assess and engage all students learning for English language subject?
- ii. How does the use of Plickers be a good data-collection tool to collect instant feedback?
- iii. To what extent, the follow-up activities based on the results can increase students' English results in the certain topic?

2. METHOD & MATERIALS

2.1 How to Carry Out the Research

- i. Print out the Plicker cards at <https://help.plickers.com/hc/en-us/articles/360008948034-GetPlickers-Cards> and make the ring. The cards can be linked to a specific person.

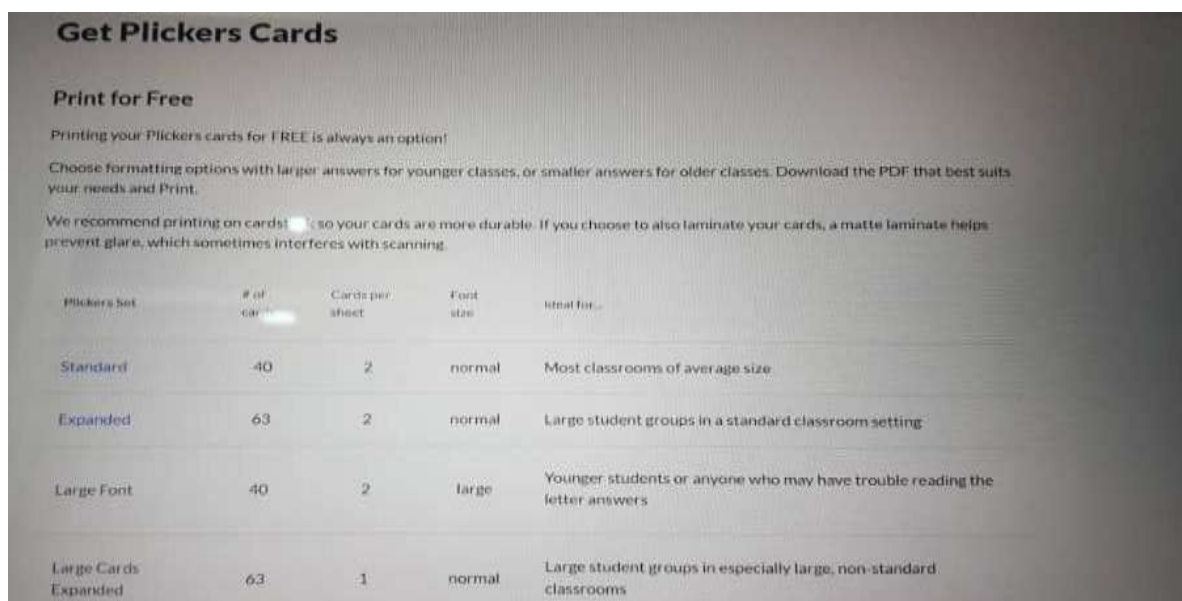


Figure 1. Print out the Plicker cards

- ii. On the Plickers Website you set up your classes and questions that you are going to ask. These are multiple choice questions or statement.

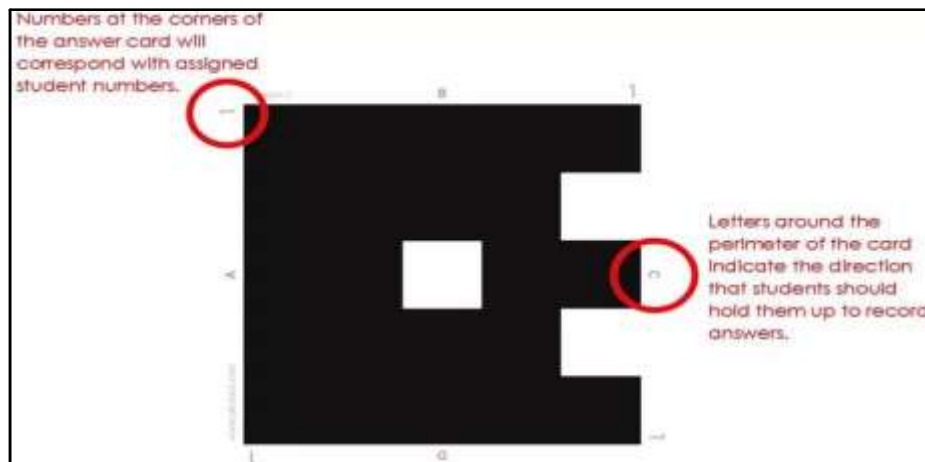


Figure 2. Set up class

The screenshot shows the 'Add Classes' interface. At the top, there is a title 'Add Classes' and a 'Cancel' button. Below the title, a message states: 'For each class, just provide a name. We recommend something not too long, like 'AP Biology' or 'Monday Grade 9'. The class name will be visible to your students in Now Playing.' The interface contains two columns of input fields, each labeled 'Enter Class Name'. At the bottom, there is a large green button labeled 'Create Class'.

Figure 3. Add / Create class

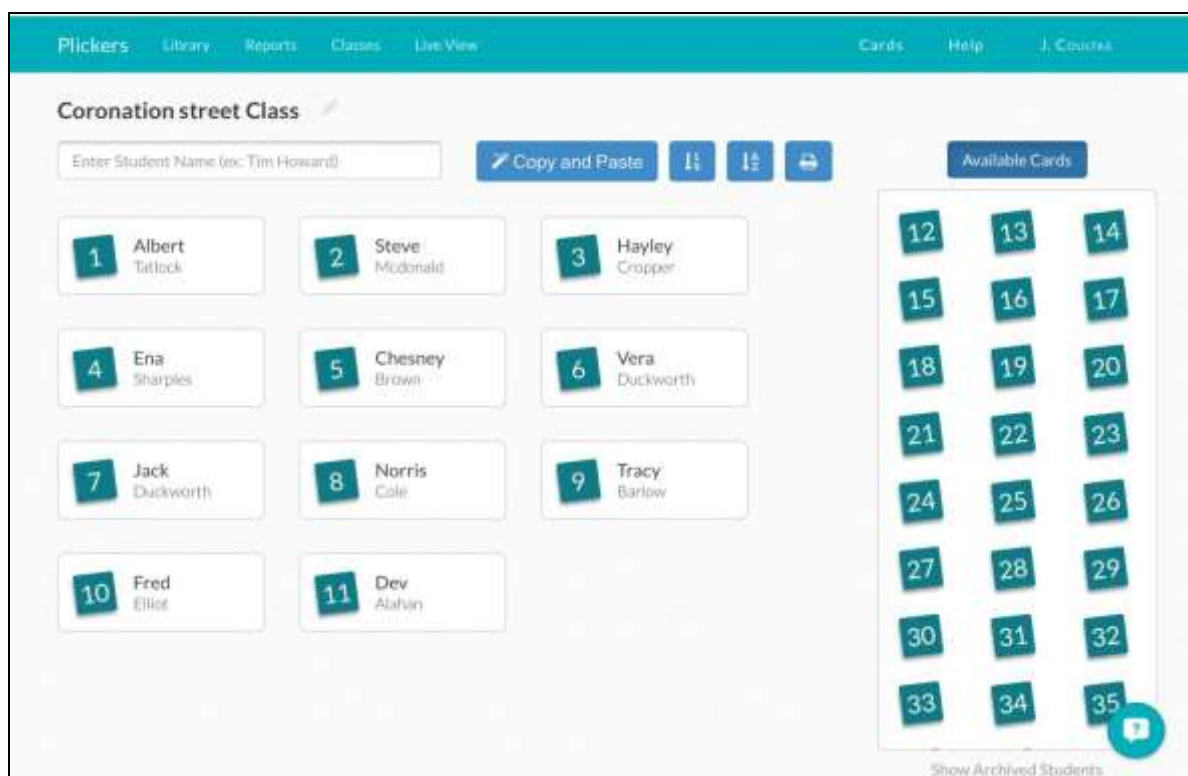
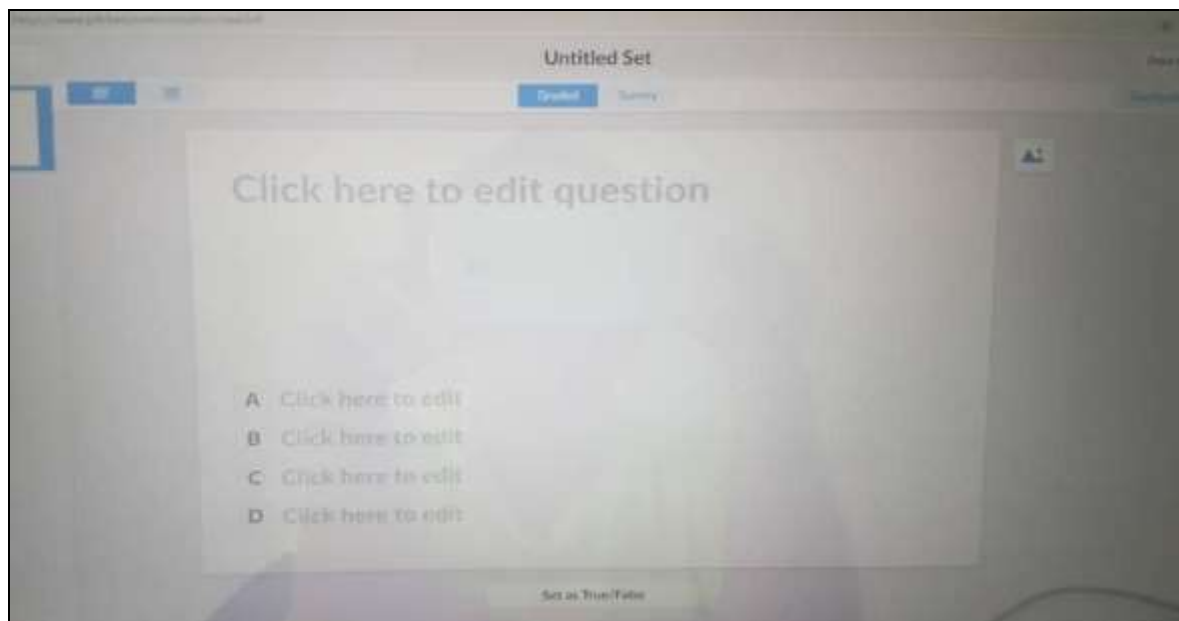


Figure 4. Add questions & cards

- iii. There are so many ways to use this app from a quick quiz at the start of the lesson to test prior learning, to get students opinions on events and situations and including reflection on the lesson or activity. The analysis will be showed in bar graph.



Figure 5. Analysis / The bar graph

- iv. The educator scans the room using the mobile device, the name of the student and the response for each question will recorded on the screen of the smart device. A bar graph will appear so the educator can view the whole group data as well. The number of participates scanned is also provided to make certain that all students have responded. All responses will be analysed.

3. FINDINGS

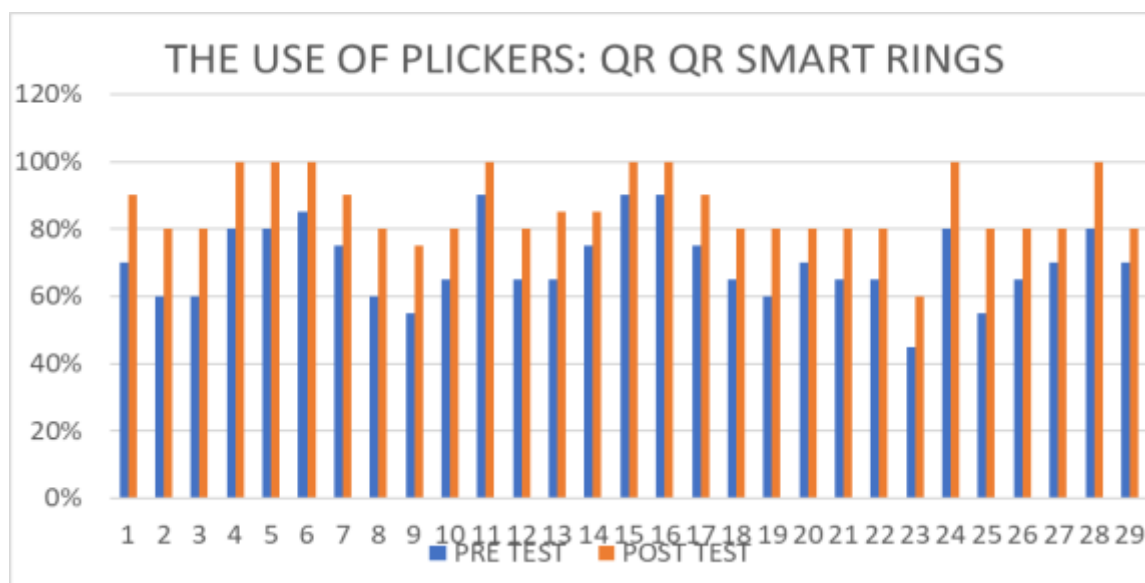


Figure 6. The use of Plickers

Table 1. Pre-Test and Post Test of the Use of Plickers

			PRE TEST			POST TEST
First Name	Last Name	Score	Correct		Score	Correct
1 Xinqi	Ang	70%	14		90%	18
10 Desmond	Chye	65%	13		80%	16
11 Jarell	Tham	90%	18		100%	20

12 Jeslyn	Tan	65%	13		80%	16
13 Huien	Lee	65%	13		85%	17
14 Wenxuan	Lee	75%	15		85%	17
15 Mingern	Lim	90%	18		100%	20
16 Yeexuan	Lim	90%	18		100%	20
17 Yongen	Loh	75%	15		90%	18
18 Natalie	Siew	65%	13		80%	16
19 Weiyan	Oon	60%	12		80%	16
2 Ziwei	Chai	60%	12		80%	16
20 Xinyi	Tan	70%	14		80%	16
21 Sinthing	Toh	65%	13		80%	16
22 Ruyi	Tung	65%	13		80%	16
23 E-Mollove		45%	9		60%	12
24 Zhiqian	Wong	80%	16		100%	20
25 Jiaai	Yeoh	55%	11		80%	16
26 Cheewai	Yew	65%	13		80%	16
27 Jianye	Yew	70%	14		80%	16
28 Seeching	Yew	80%	16		100%	20
29 Zilin	Zhong	70%	14		80%	16
3 Jeeyau	Chan	60%	12		80%	16
4 Zhuoyen	Cheang	80%	16		100%	20
5 Jiajie	Chee	80%	16		100%	20
6 Cheng	Ke Cin	85%	17		100%	20
7 Xen	Chia	75%	15		90%	18
8 Yuksen	Chong	60%	12		80%	16
9 Siaoyeng	Choo	55%	11		75%	15

4. DISCUSSION

From the pre-test and post-test, we can see the 100% improvement rate after the use of the Plickers as a formative assessment tool. Another survey was done. The following are the response from the students:

82.75% students strongly agreed and 17.24% students agreed that they like the Plickers QR smart ring. They mentioned that the Plickers QR smart ring is creative and innovative. It adds a wow factor to the class. Students gave the reason that the QR smart ring is special and useful. They show impressed by the function of the smart ring.

72.41% students strongly agreed and 27.59% students agreed that the Plickers QR smart ring is useful. They mentioned that it could stimulate students' curiosity at first. The students can just rotate the rotatable Plickers QR ring to show the option (A, B, C and D). Teachers can get instant feedback from the analysis.

79.31% students strongly agreed and 20.69% students agreed that the Plickers QR smart ring can engage every one for the subject taught. Some students mentioned that attention was given to them especially teacher knows their mistakes and work on their weakest area.

41.38% students strongly agreed and 58.62% students agreed that the Plickers QR smart rings can assess every one. As every student has his or her own smart ring, he or she can be assessed based on the answers given.

68.97% students strongly agreed and 31.03% students agreed that the Plickers QR smart ring can collect instant feedback for the instruction given. The students mentioned that using the QR smart rings is time efficient. It is fun too.

It is a fun learning and assessment tool to engage all students in critical thinking. It is an interactive tool as it gives all students the chance to participate and engage in learning. No one is left behind. It is a good data-collection tool for analysis. The result is helpful for creating the follow-up activities. It can be used without Internet connection in the class. It is a simple product that has awesome possibilities (used for formative assessment, game, questionnaire, survey and quiz) in the classroom. It allows instant feedback for every question asked.

In term of generalisation, Plickers formative assessment tool can be widely spread to all schools from primary schools, secondary schools to universities for different subjects for on-going assessment. It is suitable for on-going formative assessment where multiple choice questions or true-false questions can be set.

5. LIMITATIONS

Plickers is suitable for the students who need formative assessments. From primary school students (from Year 1 to Year 6), secondary school students (from form 1 to 5), pre-university students (form 6) to university students (Can be generalised). It can be varied subjects (Maths, BI, BM, BC, Science and so many more). For my research, my target group is year 6M pupils. Since they are going to sit for the UPSR exam this year, they always do formative assessment (English paper 1, Question 1-20) so they are suitable to be assessed. There are 29 of them in the class. The study was done in my school and my classes during the English lessons. It could be generalised to all schools and all other subjects.

6. CONCLUSION

The Plickers QR ring is a useful product. This fun learning tool engages all students in critical thinking (interactive). It gives all students the chance to participate and engage in learning. It is a good data-collection tool (poll). It focuses more on teaching, less on set-up. It gives instant feedback for the instruction given. It checks students' understanding of the content taught. Therefore, the educators can create follow-up activities based on the results. The Plickers: smart QR rings are definitely a good fun assessment tool where a simple product that has awesome possibilities (assessment, game, questionnaire, quiz) in the classroom.

References

Plickers.com. Retrieved from : <https://help.plickers.com/hc/en-us/articles/360008948034-GetPlickers-Cards>.