Clickers in the Classroom

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What is your experience with clickers?

1. I use them in my classes
2. I know someone who uses them
3. I have heard about clickers and I’m interested
4. I am familiar with clickers but I don’t think they are of use in my classes
5. I have used them or know someone who has and they don’t work.
6. Never heard of clickers before
What are clickers?

- Clickers can enable interactive PowerPoint presentations that involve the audience and can maintain their interest.
- They can be used for Quizzing, attendance, pre- and post-testing, or to verify that students did the homework or reading assignment.
- Other possibilities are surveys to gather data or opinions.
How much do clickers cost?

1. $5.00 – $20.00
2. $20-$70
3. $60-$100
4. More than $100
5. Too much
6. I don’t care, I want clickers

17% 17% 17% 17% 17% 17%
Cost

- Receiver = $175.00
- 1 clicker = $0-$70.00
- Cost is student’s number 1 reason for complaint. A price of $20-$30 reduces complaints.
Are clickers worth the cost?

- Students were asked if clickers were worth the cost. The answers were collated according to how frequently they used clickers.
Clickers are $75 and the receiver is $175 while a grader requires 10 hours/week at $10/hour to grade a 100 students course. Which one is cheaper?

1. Clickers
2. Grader
3. I’ll be back after the math
4. I don’t care, I want clickers
Reliability

- **Students**
  - Dead batteries
  - Left clicker home

- **Instructor**
  - Practice before the beginning of the semester
  - Remember that you are in the classroom to teach, not to play with toys
  - If everything fails, remember to smile
Do they work?

- **Helped verify knowledge**
  - Strong Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strong Disagree

- **Shifted discussion**
  - Strong Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strong Disagree

- **Ask for clarification**
  - Strong Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strong Disagree

- **Complete homework**
  - Strong Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strong Disagree
Do clickers work?

- Clickers are no miracle cure for the ills of society (or the classroom)
- Clickers will take time (multiple users are “best”)
- Clickers require support (difficult to “do it alone”)
- For teachers, clickers work
References

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