

# Start Commands

<https://www.pbisworld.com/tier-1/start-commands/>

## Why should I do it:

- Helps direct students to start and stop activities
- Is a crucial tool for classroom management
- Serves as an instructional signal an indicator that helps students to conform to behavioral, academic, and etiquette expectations
- Gets students attention and focus
- Serves as a verbal cue to transition, follow through, follow directives, comply with rules and expectations, etc
- Students respond better to start commands then being told what to do, lectured at, or pestered
- Establishes a classroom management methodology and pattern that student recognize and adhere to
- Provides increased classroom structure

## When should I do it:

- When beginning a new subject
- During transitions
- When initiating students to begin working
- When starting reading or quiet time
- When initiating a new task
- When lining up for lunch
- Quieting a noisy and hyper class or group of students down to begin class or work
- Getting students attention
- Before delivering directions, directives, or explanations
- Near the end of a work period, test, or timed activity
- At the start and end of the day, tasks, activities, etc
- At the end of recess to gather the class
- When reminding students of rules, expectations, and PBIS concepts

## How do I do it:

- Here are some effective start commands to use in the classroom:
  - I'll begin as soon as you are seated
  - I'll be glad to start as soon as you show me that you are ready
  - I'll be working from page 54
  - I'll be lining people up as soon as it is quiet
  - I allow people to sharpen pencils when I am not giving directions
  - Feel free to go to the restroom when I'm not giving directions
  - You are welcome to stay with us as long as you and others are not being bothered
  - Feel free to stay with us when you can keep your hands to yourself
  - I give full credit for papers turned in on time
  - I'll listen as soon as your voice is as calm as mine
  - I'll be glad to discuss this when respect is shown
  - All of those who arrive on time go home on time
  - I'll be glad to accept all papers that meet the neatness standard for this room
  - All owners of neat desks are welcome to join us at recess
  - I loan paper to those who have not borrowed before
  - Feel free to borrow from anyone but me
  - You may go out as soon as you have your coat
  - You may stay with us if you can give up on that behavior
  - Feel free to come back to the room as soon as you are calm
  - Those who can follow the rules are welcome to play the game
  - I'll be glad to discuss this with you as soon as the arguing stops
  - All of those who can handle the paintbrushes right are welcome to join us in the project
  - All of those who remember permission slips are welcome to go on the field trip