Whiteboard.fi
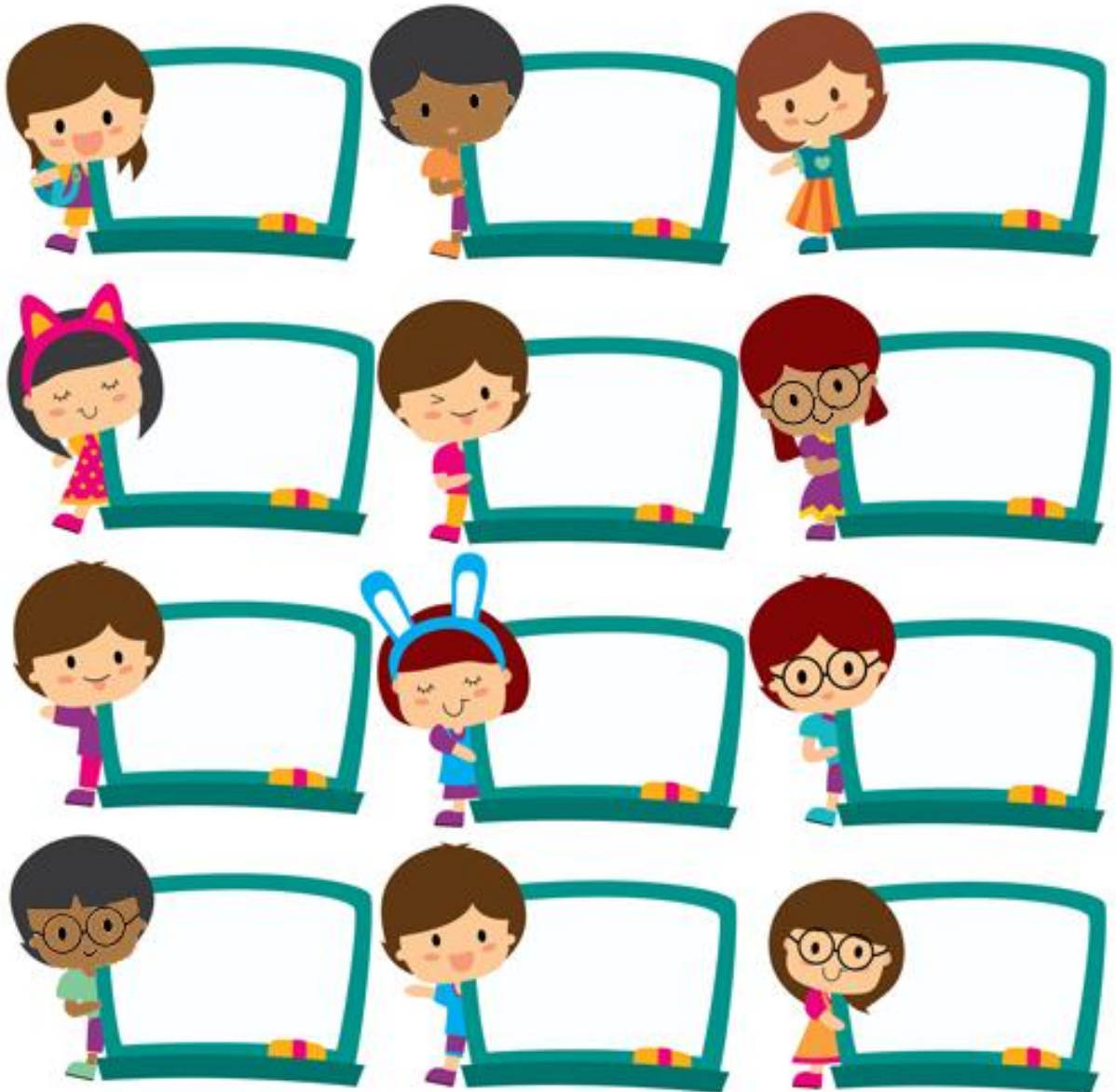
By Dominique Sénard

Introduction

Whiteboard.fi is a free online tool which allows you to create a virtual classroom in seconds where students each have a digital whiteboard to write on. The students only see their own whiteboards and the teacher's, whereas the teacher can see all the students' whiteboards immediately. There is no limit on the number of students that can join a class, but the site advises that more than 50 whiteboards is difficult to manage.

As you can see the answers in real time, Whiteboard.fi is a great formative assessment tool for online teaching. However, it is only useful while teaching online and will not replace the mini whiteboards used in a classroom.

Requirements:

Whiteboard.fi is a website. There is no download needed. Setting up a classroom using the website is extremely quick and no further registration or logging in is required. It works on any device but is easier to use with a touch screen. Writing with a mouse is possible but can be frustrating. As there is a possibility of inserting a textbox and typing, using a PC is also possible. Most students would use their phone to access the site and write their answers.

A guide for teachers on setting up before going online

➢ How to create a class?

1. Go to Whiteboard.fi and create a new class by clicking on **'+ New class'.**
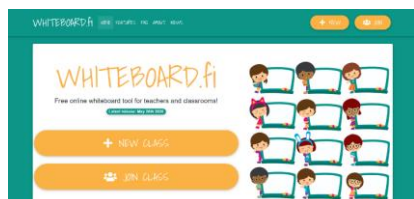
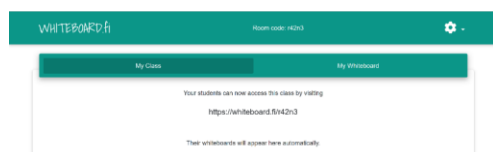2. A new window appears where you **write the name of your class**.

New Class

Create new class

Your name:

3. Once you have chosen a name and selected the settings that suit your needs (see explanation below), click on **'+ Create New Class'.**

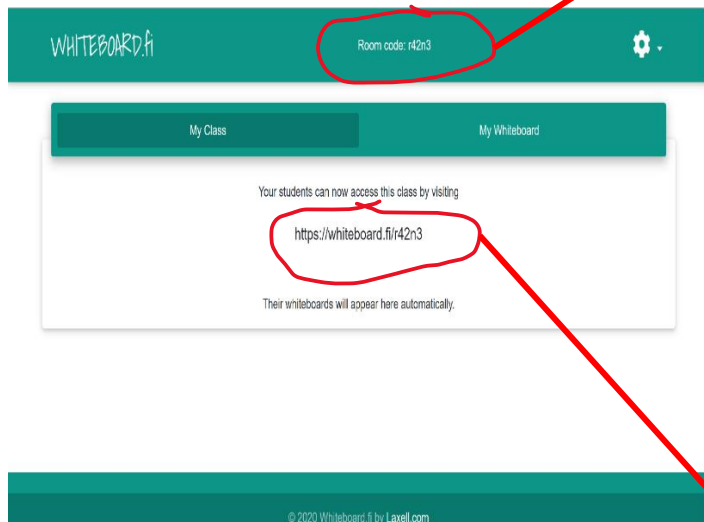4. A **unique code** and **a URL** are generated which you can **share with your students.**

This room code is different and random each time you create a class. It is only valid for one active online class. After you 'close the room', the code is no longer valid and the whiteboards are deleted. Because of this, I recommend that you do not create a class ahead of time and instead wait until the lesson is about to start. As whiteboard.fi is incredibly quick to set up, it only takes a few seconds to create your class.
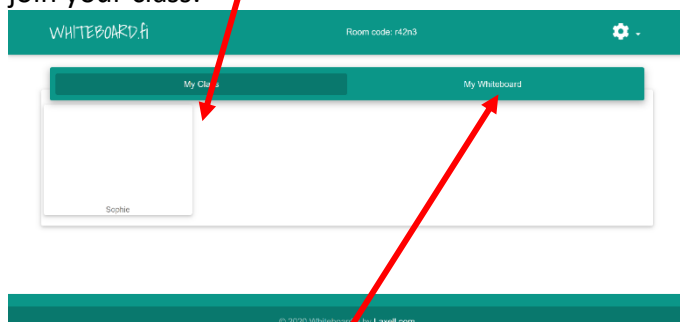
TEACHER	STUDENTS
➢ **How to ask students to join the class?**	➢ **How can students join the class?**
Once you have set up your class, you will see this screen:	Using the **ROOM CODE**:
	They go to whiteboard.fi and click 'JOIN CLASS'.
	They then enter the unique **'ROOM CODE'** and click ' JOIN CLASS '
Simply share **the link** or the **room code**, so the students can access the class you have created.	Using **the link:**
Once a student joins a class, you will see this screen:	If students type or click the link you shared, they will automatically go to the next step where they will be asked to enter their name .
The students' boards will appear here as soon as they join your class.	
On this side is your whiteboard which you can share with your students.	They then click 'JOIN WHITEBOARD CLASS' to join your class and access their whiteboard:
➢ **What are the different settings?**	➢ **What do student see with the different settings?**
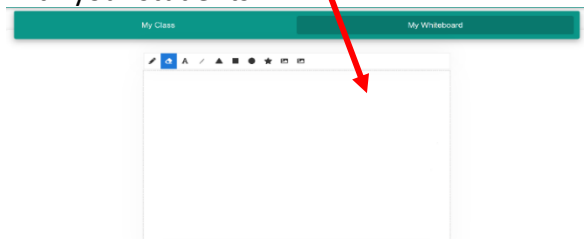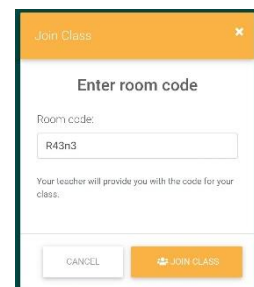
When you are asked to choose a name for your class, you can select the settings that suit you best.

If you want your student to…

Wait to be accepted before entering the classroom.	🛋️ Enable waiting lobby.
Write only (on a simplify version of the whiteboard).	📝 Force simple mode for students.
Be able to choose when they display their board by clicking on 'Save whiteboard'.	🐢 Enable slow mode.
Insert images (not available with simple mode).	🖼️ Enable image uploads.

You can also access all these features later and modify them easily during your online class by clicking on the cog on the top right corner of your screen.
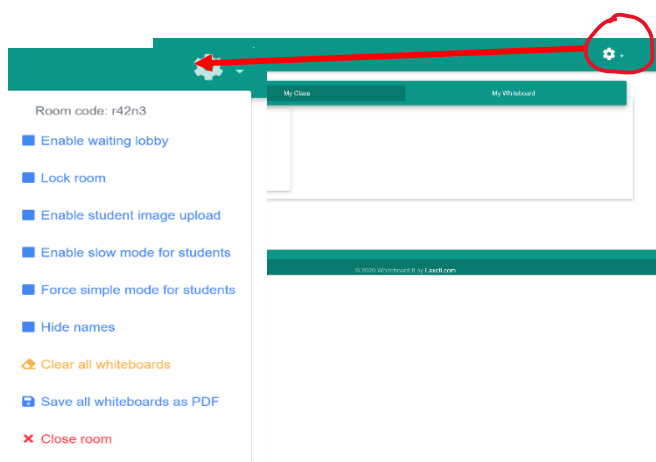
This also gives you access to added functions.

No settings selected

If you have not selected any specific settings when creating the class, the students will have this whiteboard:
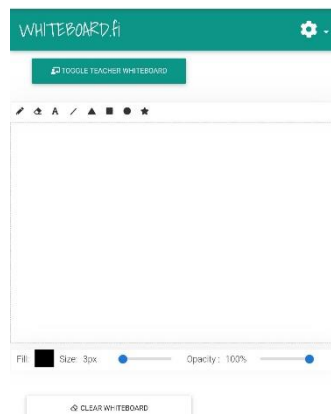
They can write, erase, insert different shapes, change the font colour and size. They can not insert images or pictures.

The whiteboard is saved automatically every 20 seconds and any change will appear in the teacher's class automatically.

🐢 **'Enable slow mode':**

If you selected '**enable slow mode'**, their whiteboard will have the same layout but a button '**Save Whiteboard'** will appear.

The student will have to click that button to save. It will no longer save automatically.
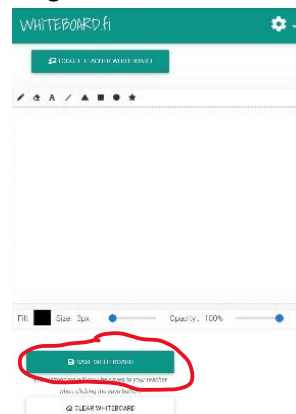
This can be useful for students who need more time and want to decide when to share their whiteboard.

🖼️ **'enable image uploads'**

You can…

Room code: r42n3
- Enable waiting lobby
- Lock room
- Enable student image upload
- Enable slow mode for students
- Force simple mode for students
- Hide names
- Clear all whiteboards
- Save all whiteboards as PDF
- Close room

Lock the room once all your students are present. This prevents other people from joining your class.

Hide the names that appear with the student's whiteboard. This can be useful if you want to show an example to the class during a live lesson.

Clear all the students' whiteboard in one click.

Save the whiteboards as a PDF.
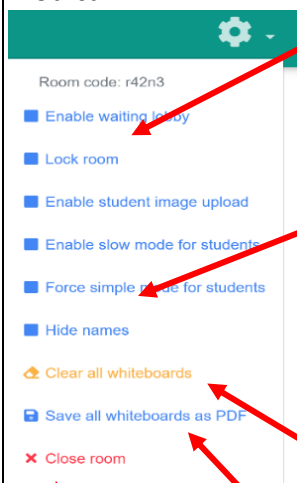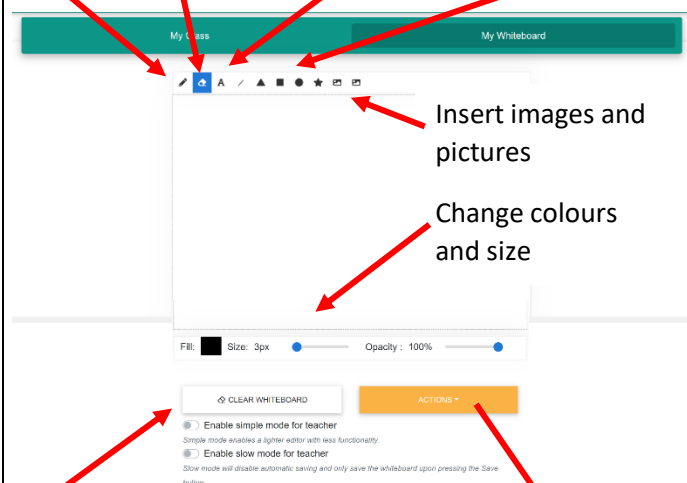
Close the classroom. All the whiteboards are deleted after the class is closed or after 120 minutes of inactivity.

➢ **What does my whiteboard look like?**

You can …
write, erase, insert a text box, insert shapes

Insert images and pictures

Change colours and size

Clear the whiteboard

The actions are:
-'**Push whiteboard to all students'**
which allows the
teacher to push his/her current whiteboard to all students. This button will erase all the students' whiteboards and replace them with the teacher's current whiteboard.
-'**Flatten layers'**
-'**Insert',** to insert grids and maths elements.
Enabling **'slow mode' and/or 'simple mode'** will bring you back to the first page and erase whatever is on your board.

If you selected '**enable image uploads'**, students will be able to upload pictures and images from their devices.
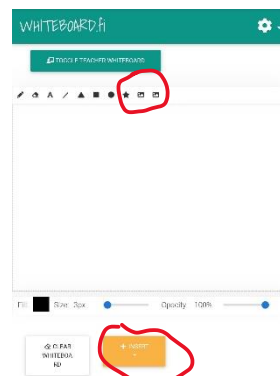
Note that this function is not available in 'simple mode'

✎ **'force simple mode'**

If you have enabled the **'simple mode'** for students, their board will have the simple version. Note that the image upload function is no longer available in 'simple mode'.
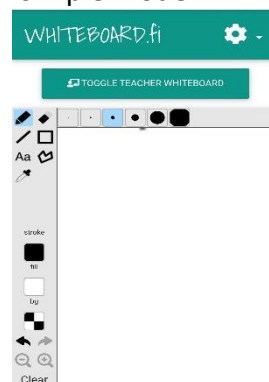
✎ force simple mode and 🐢 slow mode

If you combine **'simple mode'** with **'slow mode'** , the student will have the simplified version of the whiteboard (as above) with the added **'save whiteboard'** button.
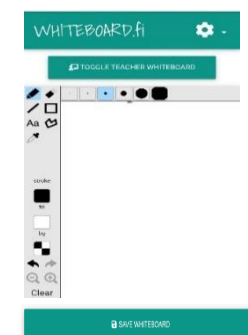
The whiteboard will no longer save automatically and the student will have to click 'save whiteboard' to display it.

➢ **How do students see the teacher's whiteboard?**

In **slow mode**, your whiteboard will have the same layout but a button 's**ave whiteboard**' will appear. You will have to click that button to save. It will no longer save automatically.

🖫 SAVE WHITEBOARD

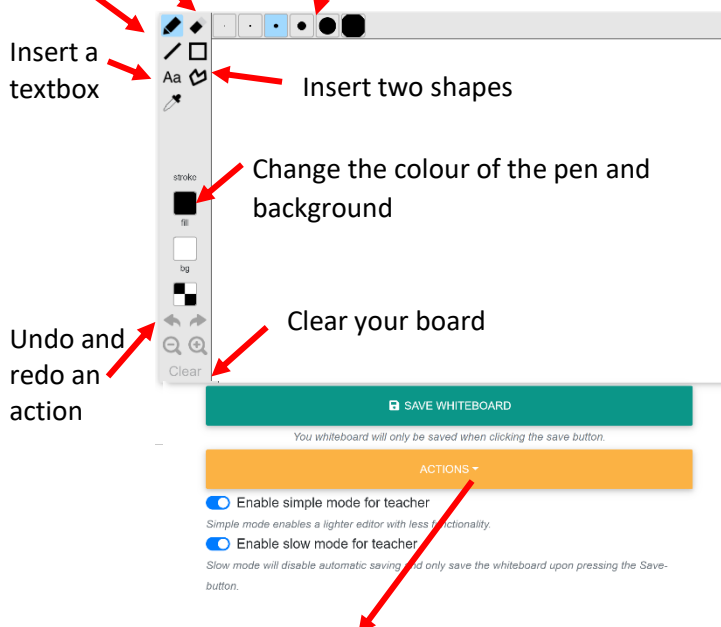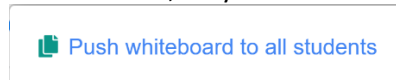If you enable **'simple mode'**, you will have the simplified version of this whiteboard. Note that you will no longer have the option of inserting images or pictures.
You can …

Write, erase, change the size or your pen or eraser

Insert a textbox

Insert two shapes

Change the colour of the pen and background

Undo and redo an action

Clear your board

🖫 SAVE WHITEBOARD

You whiteboard will only be saved when clicking the save button.

ACTIONS ▾

🔵 Enable simple mode for teacher
Simple mode enables a lighter editor with less functionality.
🔵 Enable slow mode for teacher
Slow mode will disable automatic saving and only save the whiteboard upon pressing the Save-button.

In **slow mode**, only one action is available:

📋 Push whiteboard to all students

I would advise you to always activate 'slow mode', as it allows you to decide when to display your whiteboard to students.
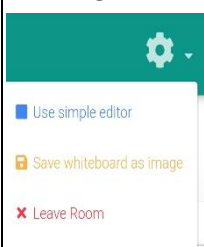
➢ **What to do after I have set up my class**
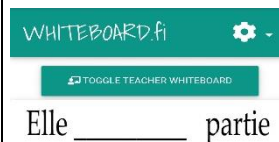
Clicking on **'TOGGLE TEACHER WHITEBOARD'** will display the teacher's whiteboard above theirs.

WHITEBOARD.fi ⚙ ▾
🖵 TOGGLE TEACHER WHITEBOARD

Elle _____ partie

est

Clicking on the wheel, students can….

⚙ ▾

🔵 Use simple editor
🖫 Save whiteboard as image
✖ Leave Room

Change their board to 'simple mode' (if not already enabled)

- Save their board as an image.

- Leave the room.

If the student leaves the room by mistake, they will bypass the lobby (if the setting is enabled) and join the class again without having to write the code.
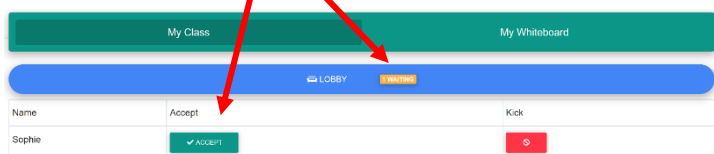
WHITEBOARD.fi ☰

WHITEBOARD.fi
Free online whiteboard tool for teachers and classrooms!
Latest release: August 3rd 2020

↻ RESUME CLASS

➢ **What do students do once they have joined the class?**

1. If you have chosen to enable the '**lobby**' setting, then you will receive a notification as soon as a student accesses the class. This function is useful to pace your class, give instructions again to those who are struggling and have everyone start at the same time.
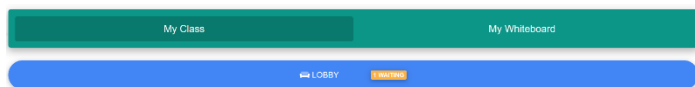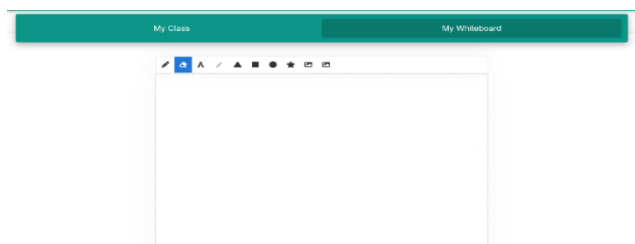

Click on 'waiting' and the name of the student will appear, with an option to 'accept' (i.e. enter) or 'kick' (i.e. reject them).

As soon as they are accepted, or, if you did not enable the 'waiting in lobby' setting, as soon as they join the class, the students' whiteboards will appear in your class.
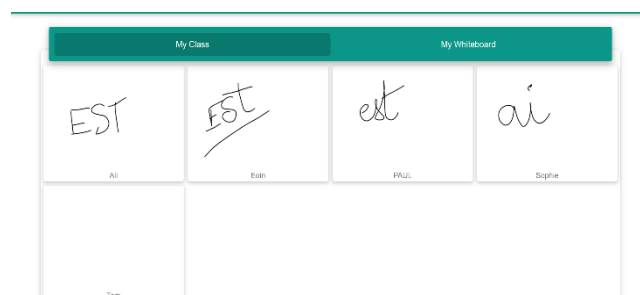
2. Once all the students are present, click on 'My whiteboard' to access your board.

3. Write the question/word to translate, etc. You can write directly on the screen if you have a touch screen or insert a textbox:

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1. If the teacher has set up a lobby, students will have to wait until they are accepted into the class.

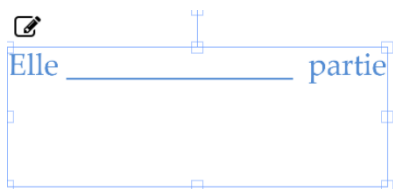2. Once the teacher accepts them, they will access their whiteboards.

Here, the student has a whiteboard in 'simple mode' and 'slow mode'.
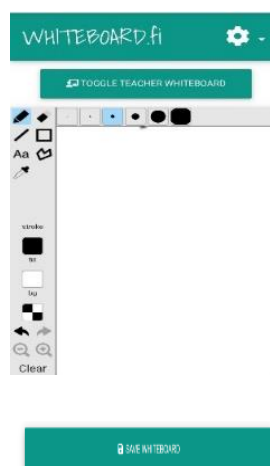
3. Clicking on 'Toggle Teacher Whiteboard' will display the teacher's board.
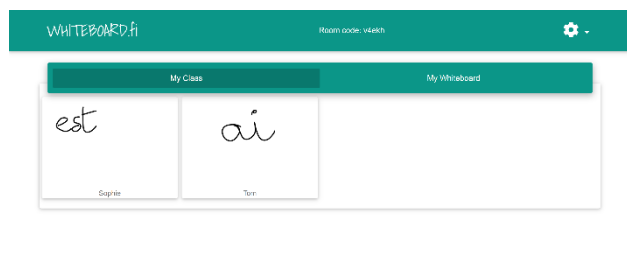
To edit the textbox, click on the icon.
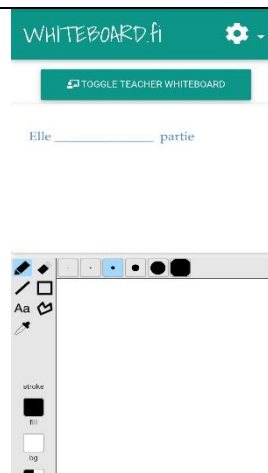
Elle _____ partie

If you are in 'slow mode' you will have to click 'save whiteboard' to display your board to the students. If not, it will automatically display any change every 20 seconds. I would advise teachers to use 'slow mode' so you can choose when to share your whiteboard with students.

4. Go to 'My class' and look at the students' answers:

4. Students write their answers.
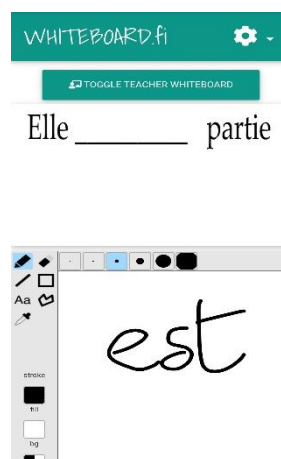
If the student's board is in 'slow mode', they will have to click 'save whiteboard' to display their boards in the class. Otherwise, the whiteboard will be displayed automatically.

6. The teacher can erase the student's board and 'push' their whiteboard.

6. Clicking on a student's whiteboard will enlarge it.
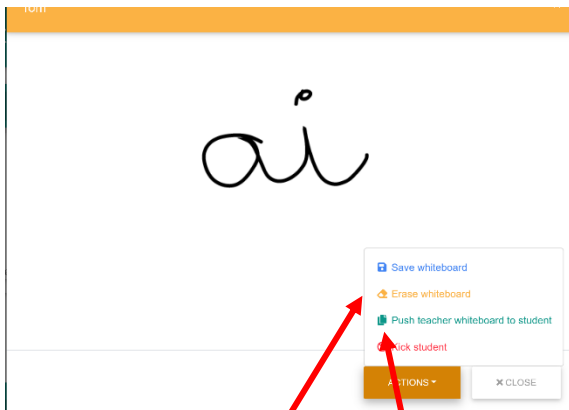
7. How do I give feedback?

- If you are online, you can talk to the individual and help them correct their answers.
- You can erase the individual board.
- You can also replace their wrong answer with the right one or a comment (Go back to your whiteboard →write a comment →go back to the individual's whiteboard →click 'push whiteboard to student.)This student will be able to see the comment instead of his/her answer.
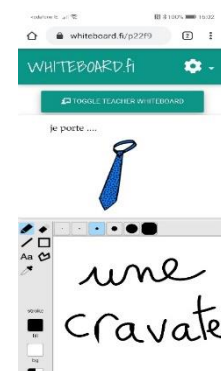
8. To insert an image, click on the icon on the right-hand side of your whiteboard.

7. Clicking on 'clear' erases the whiteboard.

8. Even if students do not have the function to upload images, they can view an image if the teacher shares it with them.

9. If the student is 'kicked' from the class, they will see this board.

9. If a student misbehaves, you can 'kick' him out of the class by first clicking on the student's whiteboard, clicking on 'actions' then clicking on 'kick students'.
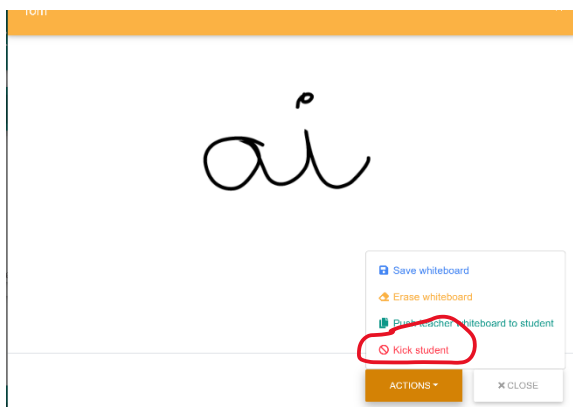
The student will be able to join the class again by clicking 'join class' and entering the code.

10. To end the class, click on the wheel on the top right-hand side and click on 'close room'.
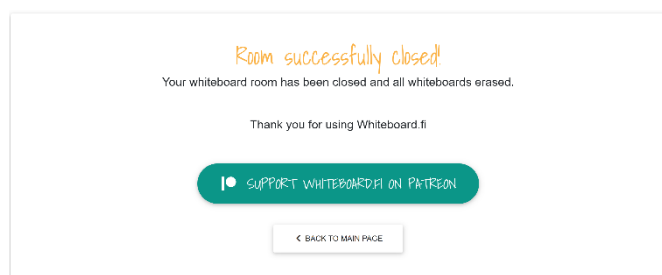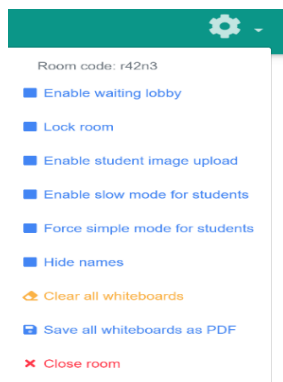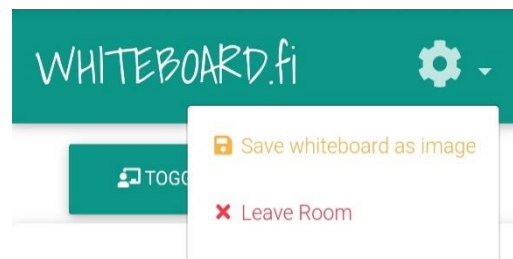

You were kicked!
You have been kicked out of the whiteboard room.

There was probably a good reason for this...

‹ BACK TO MAIN PAGE

10. To leave the room, click on the wheel on the top right-hand side and click on 'leave room'.
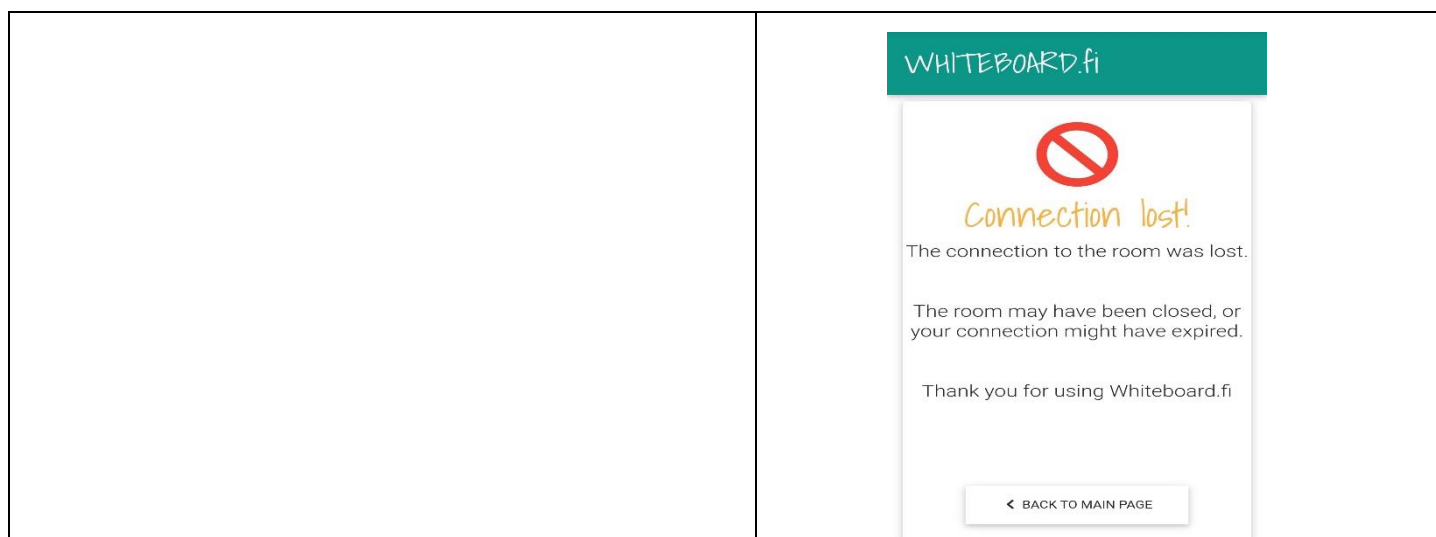

You left the room!
Thank you for using Whiteboard.fi

‹ BACK TO MAIN PAGE

If the teacher closes the room, the student will see this screen:

WHITEBOARD.fi

🚫

Connection lost!

The connection to the room was lost.

The room may have been closed, or your connection might have expired.

Thank you for using Whiteboard.fi

‹ BACK TO MAIN PAGE

Some ways to use Whiteboard.fi:

You can use Whiteboard.fi the same way as you use mini whiteboards in class.
Here are some ways to use whiteboard.fi:

➢ **Translation**

➢ **Picture to word:** Show a picture and students have to write the word in the target language or write a sentence about the picture.

➢ **Brainstorm words related to a topic:** Students can only see their boards and the teacher's board. However, you can share your screen and show all the students' answers. I would advise to click on 'hide names' to protect students' identities before sharing your screen.

➢ **Grammar:** Whiteboard.fi is a great tool for working on grammar (tenses, prepositions, articles, agreement, etc.).

➢ **Spelling**

➢ **Work on numbers:** Math problems and phone numbers, for example.

➢ **Ask the students to write a sentence using specific vocabulary or a grammar point**

➢ **Quiz**

➢ **Unjumble the sentence**

➢ **Listening exercise:**

- **Gist of it:** You speak on a topic and students jot down any pieces of information they understood.

- **Delayed dictation:** The teacher says a sentence and the students have to translate it. Ask them to wait 10 seconds before they can write anything. You can make noises during these 10 seconds so students will have to really concentrate to remember the sentence.

- **Spot the intruder:** Share a text with the students, read it and add new elements to it. Students have to spot the added words/info and write this down on their board.

- **Spot the error:** Share a text with the students and read it but change some of the information. Students have to spot the changes and write them down on their boards.

And many more!