

Three Kinds of Lines

This is about people and lines, where people try to be fair by “lining up.” Lining up does not always mean that people are in a line. It usually means that they are taking turns, or waiting to go somewhere. There are many kinds of lines. Listed below are descriptions of three common lines.

Basic Line

In a Basic Line, people are arranged themselves one person behind another. A small group of people, like a mother and child, family, or a group of friends may stand together in one place of a Basic Line. Basic Lines are like those in the picture on the following coloring page. In that picture, the people are in a “single file,” which means that only one person occupies each place in the line. Single file works well in narrow spaces, or where two or more lines may pass one another going opposite directions. Schools use Basic Lines to safely move students from one part of the building to another. Retail stores use Basic Lines when customers pay for their items.

Stand Wherever it Works Line

A Stand Wherever it Works Line is always preceded by the Basic Line formation. It usually forms at busy times in places where people place orders at a counter and wait for them. It’s not a line, but it’s called a line because people think and feel like they are still in line.

Stand Wherever it Works Lines often happen at McDonald’s, especially when many customers are there. First, they form a Basic Line one right after the other. After customers tell the cashier what they want and pay for it, they have to wait for their order to be ready. They stand nearby, wherever it works, which means they try to leave room for other customers to wait or get where they need to go. Like McDonald’s. Starbucks also uses the Basic and Wherever it Works Line format, as do many fast food restaurants and coffee shops.

Name Line

People in a Name Line place their name - or the name of one person in their group - on a list and wait. Table-service restaurants often use Name Lines. As they arrive, customers are seated at tables with a server. When tables are full, *or* there are a limited number of servers, a host or hostess begins placing the names of customers on a list, a line-up of names. Names are scratched off the list as each person or group is seated. Sometimes a restaurant takes reservations. People go online or call ahead of time to place their name on a list to be seated close to a specific time.

People in a Name Line don’t care if there’s a Basic Line anywhere because their name is in line for them on a piece of paper. They may sit, stand, or go to the restroom (toilet). Sometimes, people in a Name Line are given a buzzer. When their table is ready, the buzzer vibrates or makes a sound. Other times, people listen for their name to be called.

People use these three common lines and other kinds of lines, too. The more people understand about lines, the easier it is for them to wait, take turns, or go places.

 **COLORING BOOK**



