



## It's My Turn!

**It's My Turn!** is a small, name picking widget that runs in a browser window or in Flash Player. It does not run in Smart Notebook—you can just run them simultaneously. First, you select the class that you are teaching. Then, at the push of a button, it randomly selects a name from your list of students and removes that name from the list. Each student on the list will get one turn and then the list needs to be reset. Upon resetting the name list is randomized again. At any time you may select another class and load a new list of students—this could be small groups, whole classes, table groups, and Reading or Math groups. Really, any group you can think of.

To run this widget you will need to have at least Flash Player 9.0 installed.

## Set Up

In the folder are several files:

- this Its\_my\_turn\_READ\_ME doc
- multipleClass\_turns\_final.swf (this one needs to be in the same folder as myStudents.xml and double\_click\_me.html)
- myStudents.xml (this file contains the editable list of your classes and students. This file needs to be in the same folder as multipleClass\_turns\_final.swf and double\_click\_me.html)
- double\_click\_me.html (double click it to run the widget. It needs to be in the same folder as myTurn.swf and myStudents.xml—do you notice a trend yet?)

- AC\_RunActiveContent.js (this file is a javascript file that is used to play the flash content. Do not move or delete it.)

## Edit the XML

Before you can use It's My Turn! you need to edit the XML in the myStudents.xml file. Don't fret—it's so easy to do. What is XML? XML stands for EXtensible Markup Language and it is a markup language much like HTML. XML was designed to describe data using user defined tags. I'm not really going to talk much about the XML other than tell you what need to do to edit it, but if you really want to know more (and I know you do!) go to:

- <http://www.w3.org/XML/>
- <http://www.w3schools.com/xml/>

You do not need a computer science degree (it would help, though) or any fancy-schmancy software to edit XML. All you need is Notepad (SimpleText for you MAC nerds) or a text editor and a familiarity with a keyboard. I know you have that stuff, so you are good to go! We're PC at school, so the directions are written for PC.

Right click the myStudents.xml file and choose:

**Open with--->Notepad.**

The contents of the file look like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="yes"?>
<teaching>
  <myClass name="Select a Class">
  </myClass>
  <myClass name="Kindergarten">
    <student>Davey</student>
    <student>Sarah L.</student>
    <student>Madeline</student>
    <student>Alexander </student>
    <student>Homer J. Simpson</student>
    <student>Huey Freeman</student>
    <student>Kim Possible</student>
    <student>SpongeBob SquarePants</student>
    <student>Dr. John J.D. Dorian</student>
  </myClass>
  <myClass name="First">
```

```
<student>Davey</student>
<student>Sarah</student>
<student>Madeline</student>
<student>Alexander</student>
<student>Su</student>
<student>Homer</student>
<student>Huey</student>
<student>Kim</student>
<student>SpongeBob</student>
<student>J.D.</student>
</myClass>
<myClass name="Reading">
  <student>reading1</student>
  <student>reading2</student>
  <student>reading3</student>
  <student>reading4</student>
  <student>reading5</student>
</myClass>
<myClass name="Math">
  <student>Math1</student>
  <student>Math2</student>
  <student>Math3</student>
  <student>Math4</student>
</myClass>
</teaching>
```

### Let's break it down:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="yes"?>
```

This line is the XML declaration. It tells the flash file that the rest of the file is XML version 1.0 and how the characters are encoded—in this case “utf-8”—the UCS Transformation Format for 8 bit platforms (I know—too much information) **Leave this line alone.**

```
<teaching> </teaching>
```

These are the tags that define the element: **teaching**. This is the container that holds all your classes. There is one at the top and a closing tag at the very bottom. **Leave these tags alone.**

```
<myClass name = "Kidergarten"> </myClass>
```

These are the tags that define the element: `myClass`. Notice that the first tag has a name attribute. This is where you will label your classes so that the name can be picked up by the drop down menu. Every class that you make will need a *name*. Make sure that the name is enclosed in quotes.

```
<student>Alexander </student>
```

These lines define a *student* element of the *myClass* element. All of the *students* are contained in *myClass* (—makes sense right?) and all of the classes are contained in the *teaching element*. Here is where you will edit the names contained in the tags, so remove Alexander and put in the name of one of your students. Be sure to leave the beginning and closing tags for the student elements (i.e. `<student>YOUR NEW NAME</student>`). If you need more student elements, copy and paste more of the **student element** into the **myClass** element. Make sure you have the complete element tags and that the student is contained in the **myClass** element.

#### If you need to add or remove a class:

- **Adding a class:** Select all the elements of *one class* from `<myClass name= yourNameHere> to </myClass>` (this would include all the `<student></student>` elements) and **copy it**. Move to the very bottom of the page and insert the cursor just above or before `</teaching>` and **paste**. You can now edit your new class, by giving it a new **name** and editing the student names. **SAVE!**
- **Removing a class:** Select all the elements in the class from `<myClass name= yourNameHere> to </myClass>` (this would include all the `<student>Your Name Here</student>` elements) and **delete it**. **Save!**

Save the file. Make sure that you retain the .xml as the document type. If you change it, the flash file will not be able to load the list of students. That's it. Easy-peasey Lemon-squeezy!

#### How to Use It's My Turn!

After you have edited the XML the widget is ready to run. Double click `double_click_me.html` to open the widget in a browser or double click `multipleClass_turns_final.swf` to run it in Flash player. If you use the browser option, reduce the size of the window so that it is about the size of the widget—you don't want it to take up too much real estate.

If the XML has loaded, the widget will say **"Select a class"** in the name display box and in the drop down menu. It's My Turn is ready to go. If the drop down menu is empty, see the Troubleshooting section below.

**It's My Turn!**

Select a Class

Student:  
**Select a class**

Pick me! Reset

This screenshot shows the initial state of the web application. At the top, the title "It's My Turn!" is displayed in a large, blue, stylized font. Below the title is a blue horizontal line. Underneath the line is a dropdown menu with the text "Select a Class" and a small downward arrow on the right. To the left of the dropdown menu is the text "Student:" followed by a text input field containing "Select a class". Below the input field is another blue horizontal line. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Pick me!" on the left and "Reset" on the right. Two large green arrows are overlaid on the image: one points from the dropdown menu to the text input field, and another points from the text input field to the "Pick me!" button.

Select the class you wish to load.

**It's My Turn!**

Select a Class

Student:  
**Select a class**

Pick me!

Select a Class  
Kindergarten  
First  
Reading  
Math

This screenshot shows the same web application as the first image, but with the dropdown menu open. The dropdown menu is now a list box containing five options: "Select a Class", "Kindergarten", "First", "Reading", and "Math". The first option, "Select a Class", is highlighted in light green. A large green arrow points from the right side of the image towards the dropdown menu. The text input field and the "Pick me!" button are still visible, but the "Reset" button is no longer present.

Once the class has loaded, **It's My Turn!** will display **"Ready."**



The screenshot shows the 'It's My Turn!' widget interface. At the top, the title 'It's My Turn!' is displayed in a large, blue, stylized font. Below the title is a blue horizontal line. Underneath the line is a dropdown menu with 'Kindergarten' selected. Below the dropdown menu, the text 'Student:' is followed by the word 'Ready' in a large, bold, black font. A large green arrow points to the word 'Ready'. At the bottom of the widget, there are two buttons: 'Pick me!' on the left and 'Reset' on the right, both with rounded corners and a light blue background.

Click the **"Pick me!"** button to select a student. A student's name will appear. Call on that student it's their turn, the Lucky Duck!



The screenshot shows the 'It's My Turn!' widget interface. At the top, the title 'It's My Turn!' is displayed in a large, blue, stylized font. Below the title is a blue horizontal line. Underneath the line is a dropdown menu with 'Kindergarten' selected. Below the dropdown menu, the text 'Student:' is followed by the name 'Davey Pliska' in a large, bold, black font. A large green arrow points to the name 'Davey Pliska'. At the bottom of the widget, there are two buttons: 'Pick me!' on the left and 'Reset' on the right, both with rounded corners and a light blue background.

Click **"Pick me!"** to select another student. You can keep going until the widget says **'Done.'** This means that you have gone through the list of students. Click **"Reset"** to scramble the list and start again.



When you click **“Reset,”** **It's My Turn!** scrambles the student list again and displays: **“Ready to go again?”** Click the **“Pick me!”** button to select a student.



## Troubleshooting It's My Turn!

### Flash Player Installed?

To run this widget you will need to have at least Flash Player 9.0 installed.

### XML Issues

If the drop down menu is blank, the XML has not loaded and the widget is not ready to use. This could happen for a number of reasons:

- The XML file was moved out of the folder that contained the flash file.

- The XML file was renamed something else. The name needs to stay **myStudents.xml**. The XML file lost the .xml extension.
- There are tags missing in the XML list.



The screenshot shows a web interface for "It's My Turn!". At the top, the title "It's My Turn!" is displayed in a blue, stylized font. Below the title is a blue horizontal bar. A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of items. A red arrow points to the dropdown menu. Below the dropdown is a text input field. To the left of the input field is the label "Student:". Below the input field is the text "Select a class". At the bottom left is a button labeled "Pick me!". At the bottom right is a button labeled "Reset".

If you have any questions or comments, please email [madzander@gmail.com](mailto:madzander@gmail.com).

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