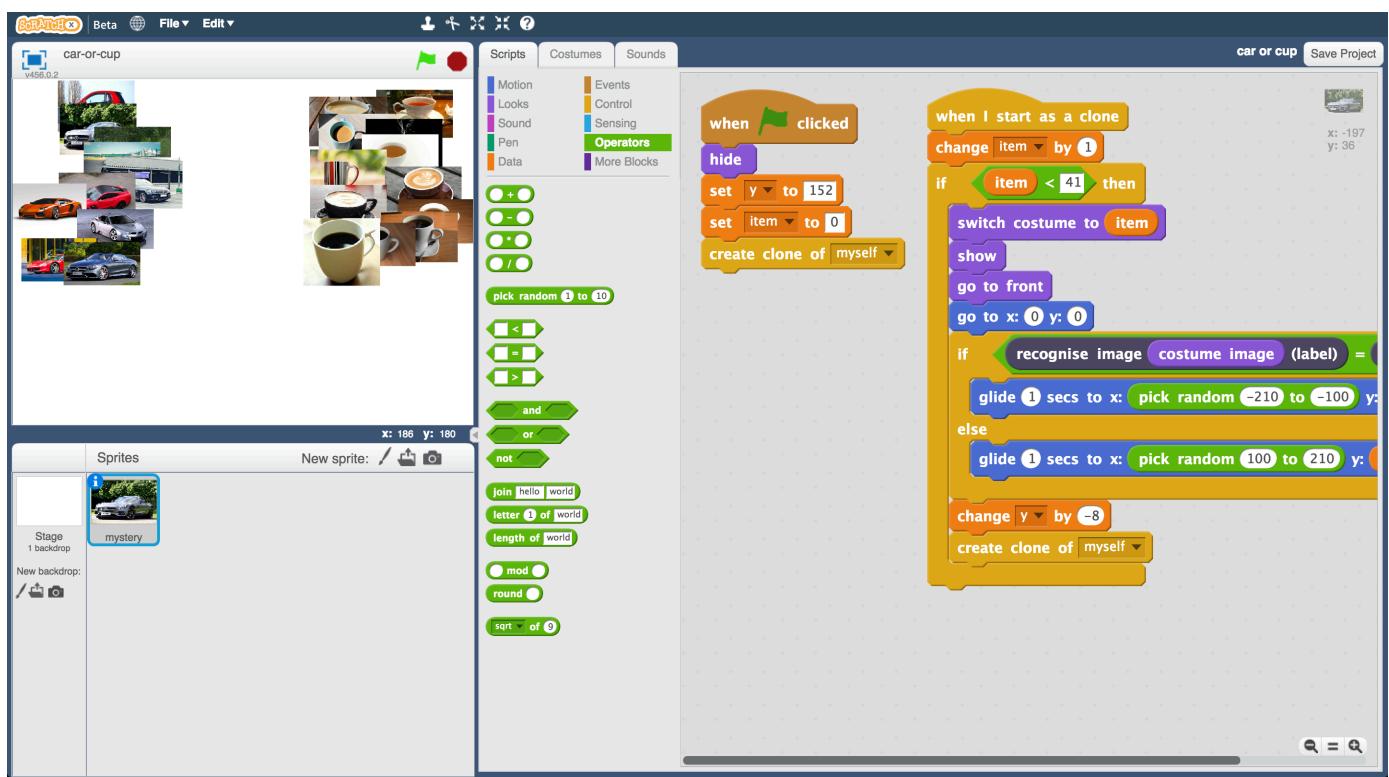


# Car or Cup?

In this project you will make a Scratch project that learns to sort photos.

Your class will work together to train the computer to be able to sort a set of photos into two piles:

- \* one pile of photos of cars, and
- \* one pile of photos of cups



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# Teacher / Group leader instructions : Setup

This version of the “Car or Cup” activity will get your class to work together to train a single machine learning model. A version of this activity where students can work individually to each train their own machine learning can be downloaded from <https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/worksheets>

**Objective:** Create a group project & prepare it for use by your class

1. Go to <https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/> in a web browser
2. Login using your teacher username/password
3. Click on “Projects” in the top menu bar
4. Click on the “+ Add a new project” button
5. Create a project called “Car or Cup”, set to recognise “images” and make sure you tick the “Whole-class project” checkbox

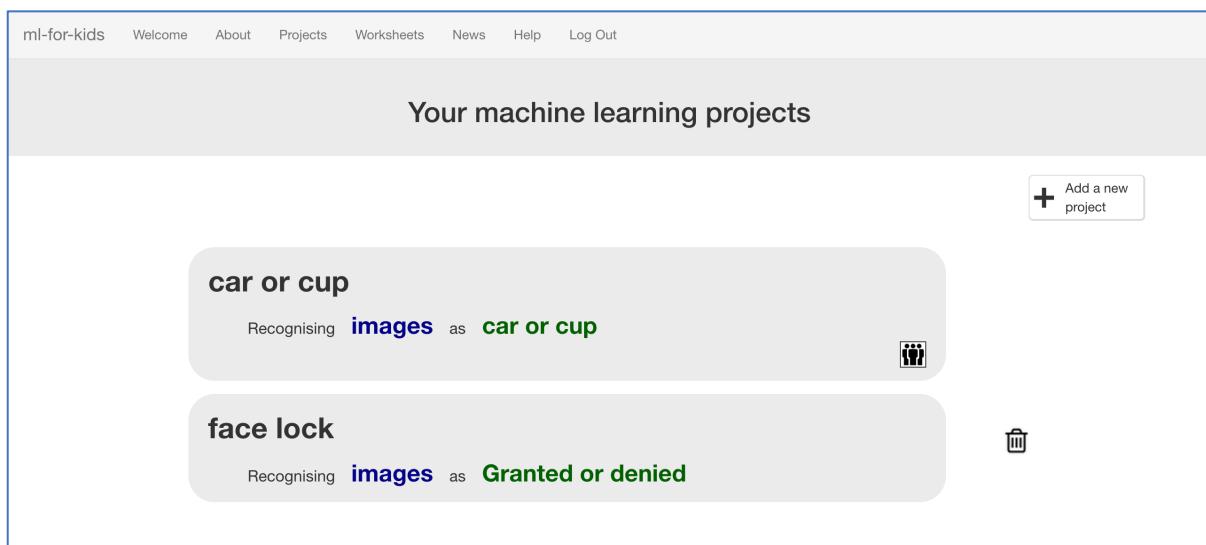
The screenshot shows a web-based form for creating a new machine learning project. At the top, there's a header with navigation links: ml-for-kids, Welcome, About, Teacher, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, and Log Out. Below the header, the main title is "Start a new machine learning project". There's a checkbox labeled "Whole-class project?" which is checked. To the right of the checkbox is a note: "Tick this if you want your whole class to be able to work on this project together. This is useful for projects that teach crowd-sourcing as an approach to training machine learning projects." Below the checkbox, there's a field for "Project Name" containing "car or cup". Under "Recognizing", the word "images" is listed. At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: "CREATE" and "CANCEL".

6. Click “Create”
7. Click on the “Car or Cup” project in the list, and then click “Train”
8. Use the “+ Add new label” button to create training buckets for Car and Cup

The screenshot shows the "Train" interface for the "car or cup" project. The title at the top is "Recognising images as car or cup". Below the title, there are two large rectangular boxes: one labeled "car" and one labeled "cup". Each box has the instruction "Drag pictures from other browser windows and drop them here". Above each box is a small note: "Drag pictures from other browser windows and drop them here". To the right of the boxes is a button labeled "+ Add new label". At the bottom of each box are three small buttons: "www", "webcam", and "draw".

## Student instructions

1. Go to <https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/> in a web browser
2. Click on “**Get started**”
3. Click on “**Log In**” and type in your username and password  
*If you don't have a username, ask your teacher or group leader to create one for you.*  
*If you can't remember your username or password, ask your teacher or group leader to reset it for you.*
4. Click on “**Projects**” on the top menu bar
5. You should see a “car or cup” project created by your teacher.  
Click on it.



6. Click the “Train” button to start collecting examples of photos to train the computer with.

## 7. Your teacher has prepared training buckets for pictures.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'ml-for-kids'. The main content area is titled 'Recognising **images** as **car or cup**'. There are two large rectangular input fields side-by-side. The left field is labeled 'car' and the right field is labeled 'cup'. Both fields contain the text 'Drag pictures from other browser windows and drop them here'. At the bottom of each field are three small buttons: a magnifying glass icon labeled 'www', a camera icon labeled 'webcam', and a pencil icon labeled 'draw'.

## 9. Open another web browser window.

## 10. Arrange the web browser windows so that they are side by side.

The screenshot shows two adjacent browser windows. The left window is the same 'Machine Learning for Kids' interface as in the previous screenshot, with 'car' and 'cup' training buckets. The right window is a 'Google Images' search results page. It features the Google logo and a search bar with a camera icon, a microphone icon, and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, there are links for 'About' and 'Print'.

- 11.** In the new browser window, search for pictures of cars.  
Drag pictures that are good examples of a car into the left bucket.

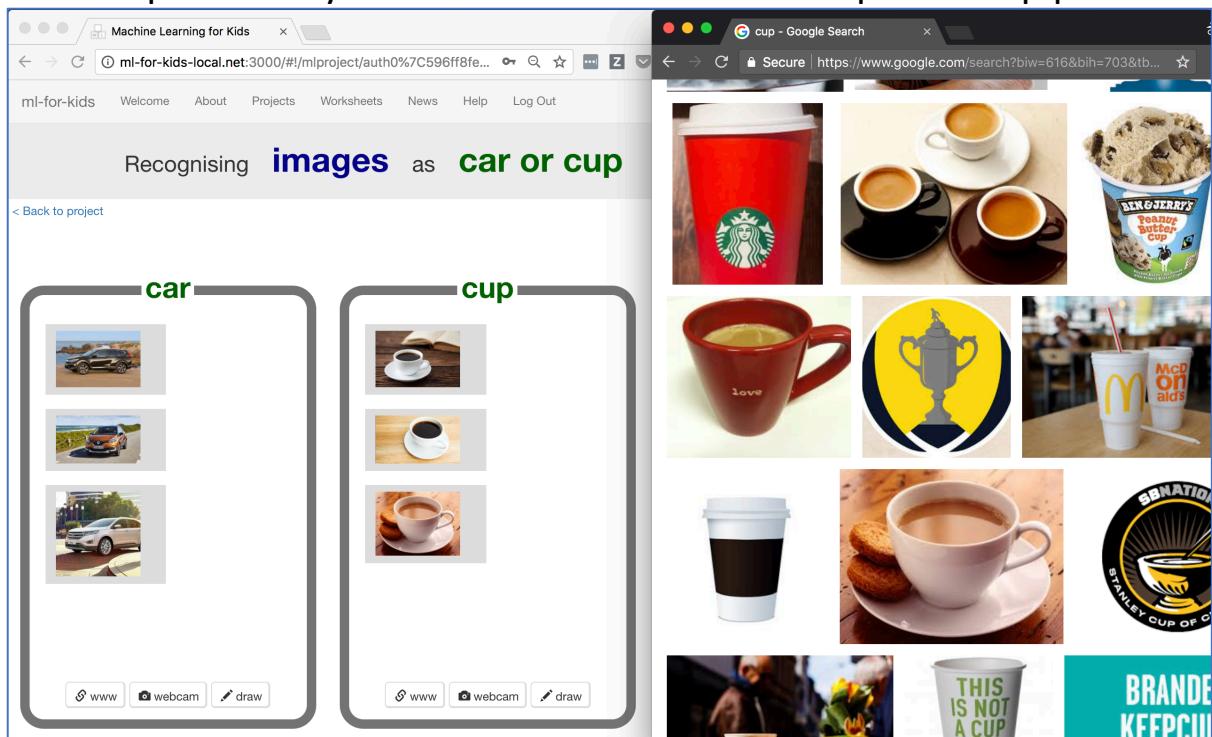
The screenshot shows a web-based machine learning project interface. On the left, there are two rectangular buckets labeled 'car' and 'cup'. The 'car' bucket contains a small thumbnail of a dark-colored SUV. The 'cup' bucket is empty and has the text 'Drag pictures from other browser windows and drop them here'. Below each bucket are three buttons: 'www', 'webcam', and 'draw'. To the right of the buckets is a separate browser window showing a grid of various car images from a Google search for 'cars'.

- 12.** Repeat until you've collected a few examples of car photos.
- 13.** Search for pictures of cups.

Drag pictures that are good examples of a cup into the right bucket.

The screenshot shows the same web-based machine learning project interface. The 'car' bucket now contains three different car thumbnails. The 'cup' bucket is empty and has the text 'Drag pictures from other browser windows and drop them here'. Below each bucket are three buttons: 'www', 'webcam', and 'draw'. To the right is a separate browser window showing a grid of various cup images from a Google search for 'cups'.

**14.** Repeat until you have collected a few examples of cup photos.



**15.** Your classmates will also be adding photos to the same training buckets as you, but they won't show up while you've got the page open. *Refresh the page to see all the training so far from the whole class.*

**16.** Keep going until your class have collected enough examples. **Don't move past this step until your teacher tells you it's time to move on.**

# Teacher / Group leader instructions : Train a ML model

**Objective:** Monitor class progress & train a machine learning model

1. Click on “Projects” in the top menu bar
2. Click on the “car or cup” project
3. Click on the “Learn & Test” button
4. Review the summary of the progress the class has made

*The more examples they collect, the better the model should perform, but they need at least ten examples of each to be able to create a model at all.*

This screenshot shows the 'Machine learning models' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: ml-for-kids, Welcome, About, Teacher, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, and Log Out. Below the navigation bar, the title 'Machine learning models' is centered. Underneath the title, there is a link '< Back to project'. The page is divided into two main sections: 'What have you done?' and 'What's next?'. The 'What have you done?' section contains the following text: 'Your class has collected examples of images for a computer to use to recognise when images are car or cup.' followed by 'They've collected:' and a bulleted list: '• 3 examples of car,' and '• 3 examples of cup'. The 'What's next?' section contains the following text: 'Keep going!' followed by 'Ask your class to go back to the Train page and collect more examples for each of the labels.' and 'The more you can get, the better it should learn, but you need at least ten examples of each as an absolute minimum.'

5. When you're ready to proceed, click “Train new machine learning model” to train a new model using their examples.  
*This may take a minute or two. The status on the page will change from “Training” to “Active” once it has finished.*

This screenshot shows the 'Machine learning models' page. The 'What have you done?' section is identical to the previous screenshot. The 'What's next?' section now includes the following text: 'Ready to start the computer's training?' followed by 'Click the button below to start training a machine learning model using the examples you've collected so far.' and '(Or go back to the Train page if you want to collect some more examples first.)'. At the bottom of the page, there is a large text input field labeled 'Info from training computer:' and a blue button labeled 'Train new machine learning model'.

6. Once it is ready, you can tell the class it's time to move on.

## Student instructions

17. Click the “< Back to project” link.
18. Your teacher has used the examples your class collected to train a machine learning model.
19. Click the “< Back to project” link, then the “Scratch” button.  
*This page has instructions on how to use the new blocks in Scratch. Keep the page open if you need to check back on how to use them.*

Using machine learning in Scratch

< Back to project

Your project will add these blocks to the **More Blocks** tab in Scripts.

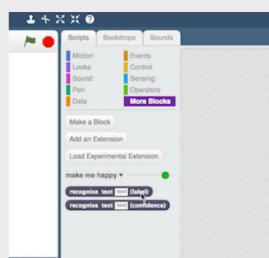
**recognise images [costume image] (label)**  
Put images in the input for this, and it will return the label that your machine learning model recognises it as.

**recognise images [costume image] (confidence)**  
This will return how confident your machine learning model is that it recognises the type of images. (As a number from 0 - 100).

**car [cup]**  
These blocks represent the labels you've created in your project, so you can use their names in your scripts.

**costume image**  
This block is in the Looks palette for Sprites and will return the image of the currently selected costume.

It will look something like this - except with the name of your project.



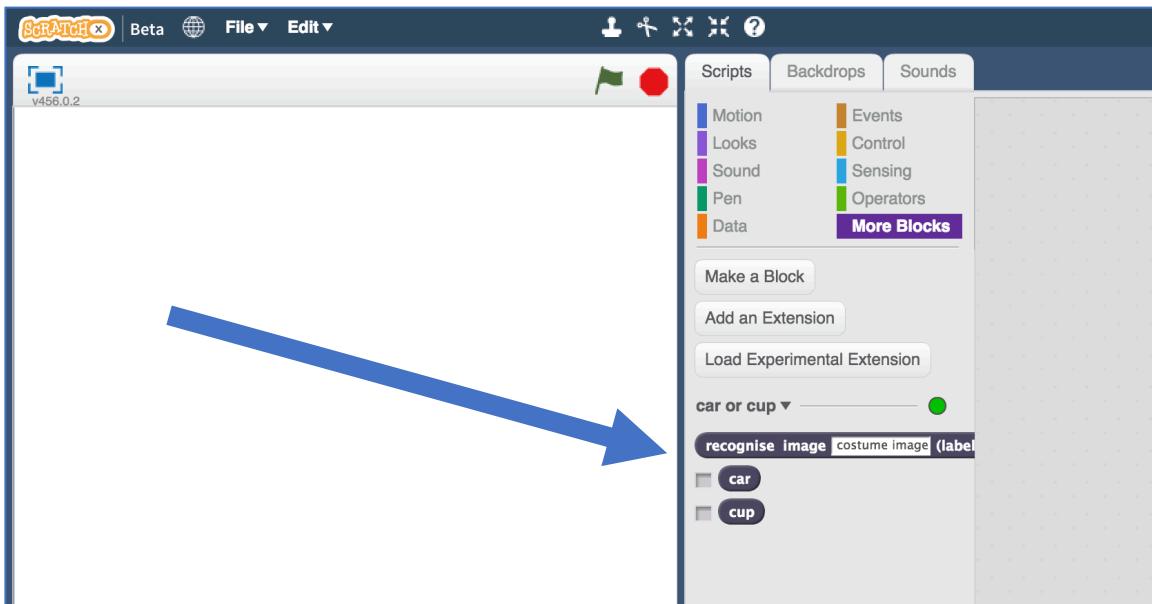
### What have you done so far?

You've started to train a computer to recognise pictures of cups and cars. Instead of trying to write rules to be able to do this, you are doing it by collecting examples. These examples are being used to train a machine learning “model”.

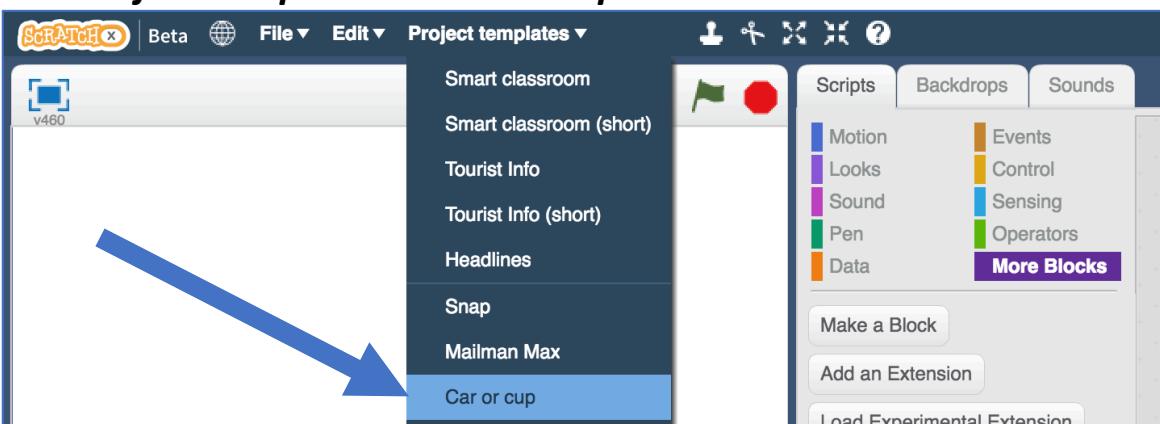
This is called “supervised learning” because of the way you are supervising the computer's training.

The computer will learn from patterns in the example photos you've chosen, such as the shapes and the use of colour. These will be used to be able to recognise new images.

**20.** Click the “Open in Scratch” button to launch the Scratch editor.  
*You should see three new blocks in the “More blocks” section from your “car or cup” project.*



**21.** Load the Car or cup template  
*Use Project templates -> Car or cup as shown below.*



## Tips

### More examples!

The more examples you give it, the better the computer should get at recognising whether a photo is a cup or car.

### Try and be even

Try and come up with roughly the same number of examples for cups and cars.

If you have a lot of examples for one type, and not the other, the computer might learn that type is more likely, so you'll affect the way that it learns to recognise photos.

### Mix things up with your examples

Try to come up with lots of different types of examples.

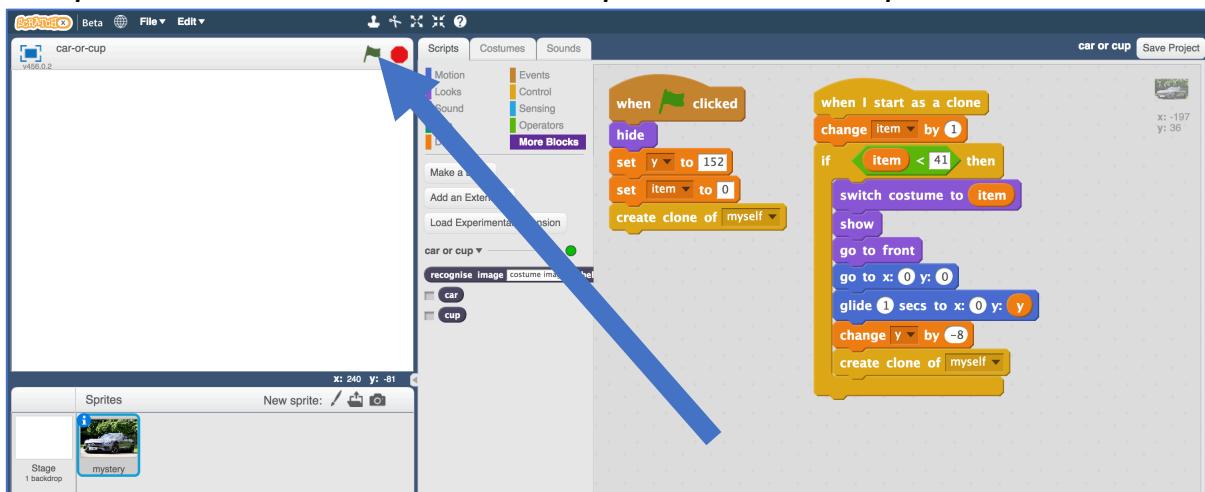
For example, make sure that you include some examples with different backgrounds.

If every photo of a car you use for training has grass in the background, and every photo of a cup you use for training is on a wooden table, you might end up training the computer to recognise grass or wood instead.

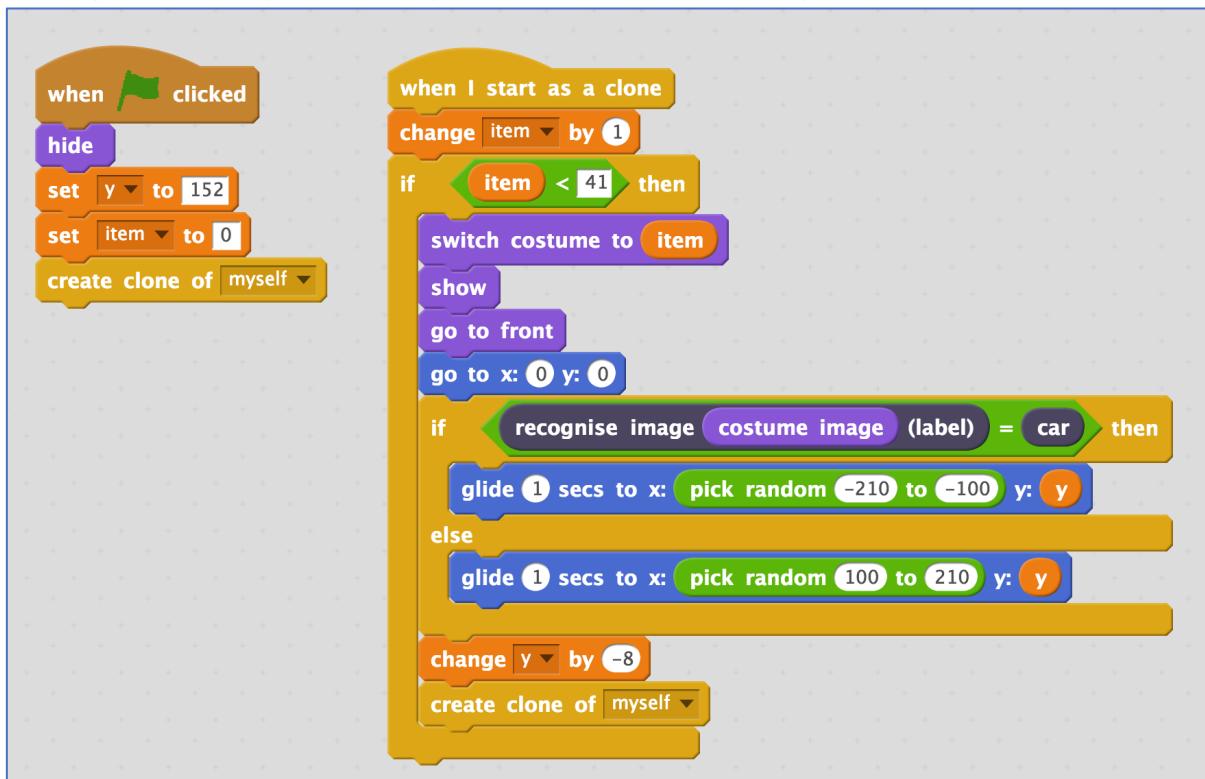
## 22. Click the green flag to give it a try.

The project has forty random photos or cars or cups.

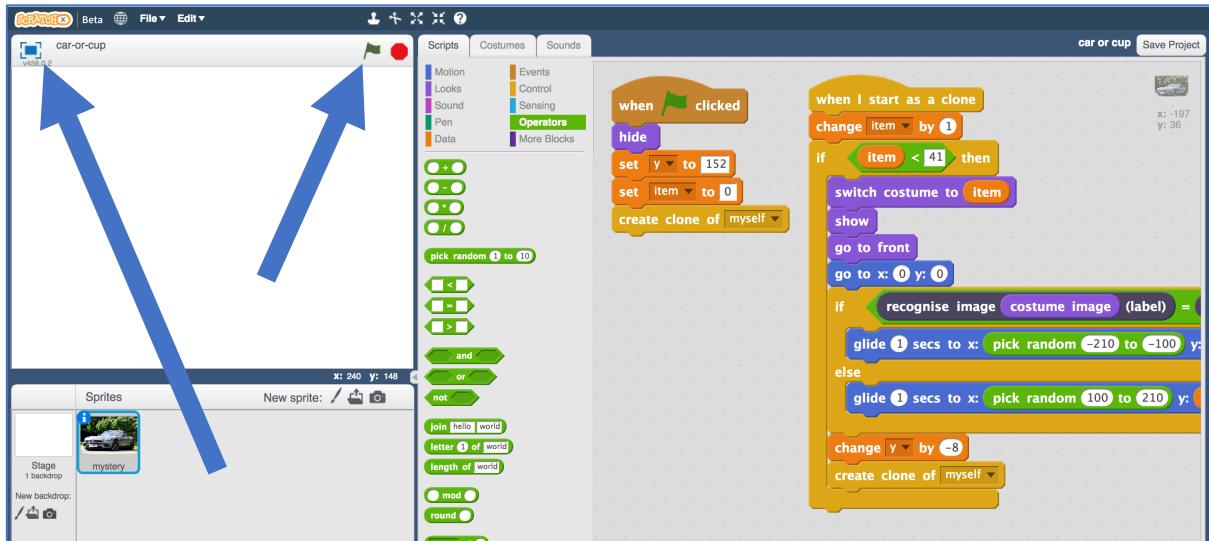
Next you will modify the project to use the training you've given the computer, so that it can sort these photos into two piles.



## 23. Click on the “mystery” sprite, and then click “Scripts” tab, and change the script to use your machine learning model.



**24.** Click the full screen icon, and then click the green flag



**25.** Watch your script use the machine learning model you've trained to sort the photos into two piles.



**26.** If your trained system makes mistakes, you'll need to go back to step 14, and collect more examples.

*Make sure you repeat step 18 to train a new model with the extra examples that you've collected.*

**27.** Save your project.

*Click **File** -> **Save project***

## What have you done?

You've used machine learning to build an automatic photo sorter.

Training the computer to be able to recognise photos for itself is much much quicker than trying to sort thousands of photos manually.

And the more examples you give it, the better it should get at recognising photos correctly.

## Ideas and Extensions

Now that you've finished, why not give one of these ideas a try?

Or come up with one of your own?

### Add a third type of photo

Instead of just recognising cups and cars, can you add a third type as well?

### Try confusing the computer

Train the computer to recognise cars with ten photos of a car on a grass background.

Train the computer to recognise cups with ten photos of a cup on a plain white background.

Now see if the computer recognises a car on a plain white background.

Or if it can recognise a cup on a grass background.

Does the computer get confused? Did it learn to recognise the cup and car? Or was it more influenced by the background?

Experiment to find out how the computer learns, and how it behaves.