



THREE WORDS BEFORE THE LESSON

Pre-teach less. Remember more. Understand deeper.



THE IDEA

Introduce just three key words before a lesson.

These words unlock understanding, build confidence and reduce cognitive overload.

Focus on quality, not quantity.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Choose three essential words from your lesson.

Share meanings, examples and visuals.

Revisit the words during the lesson.

Use the words in plenaries and exit tickets.

Display the words visibly all lesson.

This simple routine has a big impact.

HOW TO USE IT

1



SELECT

Choose three key words.

- Pick words that are central to the lesson.
- Focus on tier 2 and 3 vocabulary.

Example: migration, climate, impact

2



TEACH

Introduce the words.

- Explain meaning in simple language.
- Give an example and a non-example.
- Use visuals, gestures or realia.

Migration = people moving from one place to another.

3



USE

Use the words in the lesson.

- Refer to the words when teaching.
- Encourage students to use them.
- Highlight and praise when they do.

Great use of "impact" in your explanation.

4



REVISIT

Revisit and review.

- Check understanding mid-lesson.
- Use in plenary or exit ticket.
- Reinforce with retrieval practice.

Write the three words and a sentence for each.



WHY IT WORKS

Pre-teaching a few key words activates prior knowledge, improves comprehension and builds vocabulary for the long term. It lowers the language barrier so students can focus on learning.



EAL UPGRADE

Provide student-friendly definitions, visuals and L1 support where helpful. Give example sentences or sentence frames. Encourage students to create their own examples.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Before your next lesson, choose just three key words. Introduce them in the first 5 minutes. Revisit them at least twice during the lesson and once at the end.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"Here are three important words for today..."
 "Let's look at what this word means."
 "Can you share a sentence using this word?"
 "Which of our three words helped you most today?"

**DUNCAN
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EAL • LANGUAGE • LEARNING