



BEFORE YOU SHOW THE TEXT

Prepare the ground. Unlock understanding. Build confidence.



THE IDEA

Don't put the text in front of students cold. A few minutes of preparation brings the topic to life, activates prior knowledge and reduces the language load.

By front-loading key ideas, vocabulary and context, EAL learners can engage with the text more confidently and focus on meaning rather than just decoding words.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Use an image, object or short video.
Ask 2–3 open questions to spark discussion.
Elicit and pre-teach key vocabulary.
Make links to what students already know.
Then show the text and read with a purpose.
Keep it short – 3 to 5 minutes.

THE 3 STEPS

1**PICTURE**

Build curiosity.

Show a relevant image, object or short video.
Ask questions and invite predictions.
Tap into students' background knowledge.

*What do you notice?
What do you think is happening?
What do you already know about this?*

2**WORD**

Prepare the key language.

Select and pre-teach 3–6 high-value words from the text.
Clarify meaning, pronunciation and usage.
Use visuals, examples or quick gestures.

*ecosystem (noun)
habitat (noun)
to adapt (verb)*

3**SENTENCE**

Set a purpose for reading.

Tell students why they are reading.
Give a simple, focused task.
Then show the text.

*Now read the text to find out
how animals adapt to their habitat.*



WHY IT WORKS

Activates prior knowledge and builds context.
Reduces cognitive and language load.
Helps EAL learners access meaning and engage with the text.



EAL UPGRADE

Pre-teach tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary.
Use images, realia and first language where helpful.
Provide a word bank or visual glossary to support reading.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Choose a text from your next lesson.
Plan 3 quick pre-reading activities (image, questions, key words).
Try it and notice the difference in engagement and understanding.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

*"Take a look at this image. What do you think?"
"Let's learn a few key words before we read."
"Now read the text to find out ..."*

**DUNCAN
ROSE**

EAL • LANGUAGE • LEARNING