



FROM EVERYDAY TALK TO SUBJECT TALK

Support the shift from informal to more academic language.



THE IDEA

EAL learners often start with everyday language.

They need support to move towards more academic and subject-specific language.

This helps them express their ideas more clearly and succeed in their learning.



IN THE CLASSROOM

- Notice everyday language.
- Introduce more formal alternatives.
- Show examples from your subject.
- Use simple sentence frames.
- Give time to practise.
- Use it in speaking and writing.

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EXPLORE THE DIFFERENCE

Compare everyday and subject language.

Everyday talk

*It's about ...
It's like ...
I think ...
It's good/bad ...*

Subject talk

*It relates to ...
It is similar to ...
I suggest ...
It has advantages/disadvantages ...*

2



USE A SUBJECT EXAMPLE

Show how to upgrade the language.

Everyday:

Plants make food from sunlight.

Subject:

Plants photosynthesise, using light energy to produce glucose.



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PRACTISE AND APPLY

Let students try it.

Give a simple idea and ask students to write or say it in everyday and subject language.

*Everyday: ...
Academic: ...
Subject: ...*



WHY IT WORKS

- Helps students extend their language.
- Builds confidence to use academic and subject terms.
- Supports clearer explanations and better writing.
- Useful in every subject.



EAL UPGRADE

Create an everyday → subject vocabulary bank with examples from your subject.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Choose one key idea from your next lesson. Write it in everyday language and subject language.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"How else can we say this?"
"What is a more formal word?"
"Can you change this into subject language?"