



TEACH THE LANGUAGE OF THINKING

Give students the words to think, not just to answer.



THE IDEA

Students need language to show their thinking.

Thinking words help them explain, question and consider other ideas.

Use a small set of high-value words across all subjects.



IN THE CLASSROOM

- Teach a few key words.
- Model how to use them.
- Use examples from your subject.
- Give time to practise.
- Use in speaking and writing.

1



TEACH THE WORDS

Use a small set of thinking words.

because

however

therefore

I think

this suggests

on the other hand

what if

it depends

overall

2



SHOW EXAMPLES

Use them in a subject example.

I think this happens **because** there is more sunlight.



3



PRACTISE AND APPLY

Let students use them.

*I think ...
However, ...
This suggests ...
What if ...*



WHY IT WORKS

- Builds academic language.
- Helps students explain and reason.
- Useful in every subject.



EAL UPGRADE

Create a short thinking word bank for your subject.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Choose one question and ask students to use two thinking words.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

*"Can you explain why?"
"What else could be true?"
"Which word helps you show that?"*