

Before You Hand Out the Worksheet

Remove avoidable language barriers before a worksheet begins.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Read the worksheet as a learner: identify the subject goal and language barriers.

Teach it in four steps

1. Name what learners must understand, rather than how many questions they must finish.
2. Mark vocabulary, instruction verbs and sentence structures needed to begin.
3. Model the first response using the original subject challenge.
4. Let learners attempt the next item, then check whether the barrier has shifted.

Worked classroom example

Science: before a diffusion worksheet, explain concentration using a particle diagram and model "Particles move from... to..."; keep the explanation question.

Teacher prompt: "Which detail supports your explanation? Show me how you know."

Check understanding

Can learners start the second question and explain the particle movement?

Fade the support

Remove the first-response model on a new diagram while retaining a small word bank if needed.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: model what "justify" requires without supplying the calculation.

Humanities: unpack the source question before asking learners to evaluate it.

Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.