

Sentence Frames → Sentence Freedom

Support the language of an explanation while deliberately moving towards independent wording.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Select one relationship to express, such as cause, contrast or comparison. Prepare a complete model and progressively lighter prompts.

Teach it in four steps

1. Show a complete example and discuss what each part does.
2. Offer an open frame with meaningful choices; learners supply their own subject evidence.
3. Replace the frame with a small word bank and ask for a new example.
4. Remove the prompt and check whether learners still express the relationship clearly.

Geography: erosion and vegetation

Full model: "The vegetated slope lost less soil because roots helped hold the soil in place." Frame: "The... lost... because..." Lighter prompt: vegetation · roots · soil loss.

Teacher: "Keep the cause-and-effect link. You can change the sentence shape."

Check understanding

Use a new pair of slope observations. Check whether the learner identifies the relevant difference and connects it to the evidence, rather than merely filling gaps.

Fade the support

Move from full frame to connective choices to no prompt. Return one level of support only when the explanation becomes unclear.

Adapt it across subjects

Science: use observation → evidence → explanation in a practical conclusion.

Maths: offer "Both... whereas..." for comparing methods, then ask for a comparison without the opening.

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.