

# Information Gap

Create a real reason to ask, listen and clarify: each partner has information the other needs.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

## Before the lesson

Prepare two complementary sheets. Keep them separate. Model one question and ensure neither partner can finish alone.

## Teach it in four steps

1. Give A and B different information about the same task; explain the shared outcome.
2. Partners ask and answer questions without showing their sheets. Model clarification when a detail is unclear.
3. Each learner records the missing information and uses it to complete the task.
4. Reveal both sheets and check accuracy, then reflect on which questions were useful.

## Geography: comparing rainfall

A has rainfall for January–June; B has July–December. Both need a complete annual table to identify the wettest month. Question: “What was the rainfall in August, in millimetres?” Clarification: “Did you say fifteen or fifty?”

Teacher: “Ask for the missing detail. If the number is unclear, confirm it before writing.”

## Check understanding

Check completed tables and the resulting conclusion. Listen for questions that request precise information and clarification that repairs a misunderstanding.

## Fade the support

Remove the question bank after one round. Give a new dataset and let learners formulate the questions.

## Adapt it across subjects

Science: partners exchange missing equipment details to reconstruct an investigation plan.

Maths: partners hold different coordinates needed to plot and identify a shape.

## 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.