

Three Words Before the Lesson

Teach a few essential terms that unlock the current task.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Select three terms essential to the next learning task, with a visual or example for each.

Teach it in four steps

1. Show the three terms and connect each to a concrete example.
2. Ask learners to say, point to or sketch the meaning.
3. Use the terms in a short subject explanation.
4. Return to them in the task and again at the end.

Worked classroom example

Science: resultant, balanced, acceleration. Use a force diagram to link each term to the relationship between forces and motion.

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

Check understanding

Change the diagram and ask learners to select the relevant term and explain it.

Fade the support

Keep the terms visible initially, then ask for an explanation without the display.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: gradient, intercept, coordinate before graph work.

Humanities: cause, consequence, significance before analysing an event.

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.