

Running Dictation

Listen, communicate and reconstruct accurate subject meaning.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Prepare a short accurate subject text and a safe walking route; allow seated alternatives.

Teach it in four steps

1. Model the roles: reader remembers a short chunk, recorder writes it.
2. Partners retrieve and communicate chunks without carrying the text.
3. Swap roles so both learners listen and speak.
4. Compare the reconstructed text with the source and discuss meaningful errors.

Worked classroom example

Science: "Evaporation occurs at the surface of a liquid. It can occur below the boiling point." Losing "below" changes the scientific meaning.

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

Check understanding

Ask learners to explain one corrected phrase rather than merely report spelling accuracy.

Fade the support

Use longer meaning chunks and fewer return visits, then reconstruct a new text from notes.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: communicate short instructions with units and conditions.

Humanities: use a brief account, then distinguish reconstruction from interpretation.

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.