

Say It Better

Improve one vague response through a precise language choice.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose a vague subject sentence and the evidence needed to make it more precise.

Teach it in four steps

1. Hear the original response without interrupting.
2. Identify one meaning that needs clarification.
3. Offer a precise word or model the relationship.
4. Let the learner reformulate, then apply the improvement to a new example.

Worked classroom example

Science: “It went faster” becomes “The trolley accelerated because the resultant force acted forwards.” Only use this wording when the evidence supports it.

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

Check understanding

Ask whether the improved wording fits a second force diagram.

Fade the support

Replace the model with a prompt such as “Which force?” or “What changed?”

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: replace “bigger” with a quantity and unit.

Humanities: replace “bad” with a specific consequence and evidence.

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.