

Cut the Instructions

Make a sequence of actions clear without losing essential conditions.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Rewrite a multi-action instruction as a short visible sequence without dropping essential conditions.

Teach it in four steps

1. Identify each action and the order required.
2. Show one step at a time and model the first action.
3. Ask a learner to restate or demonstrate the next step.
4. Reconnect the sequence to the purpose of the whole task.

Worked classroom example

Science: "Measure 20 mL. Record the starting temperature. Add the solid. Stir. Record the highest temperature." Preserve quantities and safety requirements.

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

Check understanding

Ask learners to identify what must be recorded before adding the solid.

Fade the support

Join steps back into a complete instruction once the sequence is secure.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: separate plotting, joining and describing into visible actions.

Humanities: separate reading, selecting evidence and writing an 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.