

Dictogloss

Reconstruct meaning and notice how language expresses it.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Select a short text with one useful language pattern; learners should know the key concepts first.

Teach it in four steps

1. Read once for meaning, with no transcription.
2. Read again while learners note key words and relationships.
3. Groups reconstruct the explanation in their own wording.
4. Compare with the source and discuss how language expresses the meaning.

Worked classroom example

Science: “The particles gain energy, move faster and spread farther apart.” A reconstruction must preserve the sequence and the relationships, not every original word.

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

Check understanding

Ask each learner to explain why one omitted verb affects the account.

Fade the support

Reduce the second-reading notes or reconstruct a new explanation independently.

Adapt it across subjects

Humanities: reconstruct a cause-and-effect account.

Maths: reconstruct an explanation of a method, preserving conditions.

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.