

Stop Correcting Everything

Focus feedback on one useful language improvement at a time.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose one language feature that matters for the task; separate it from subject accuracy.

Teach it in four steps

1. Read first for meaning and identify what the learner communicates successfully.
2. Select one recurring feature to address.
3. Model a correction and ask learners to revise similar instances.
4. Use a fresh sentence to check transfer rather than correcting every error.

Worked classroom example

Science: focus on past-tense verbs in a method account: “We measure” becomes “We measured”. Still address a scientific error that changes the result or method.

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

Check understanding

Ask for a new method sentence in the past tense and check the action remains accurate.

Fade the support

Move from highlighted errors to a short self-check prompt.

Adapt it across subjects

Humanities: focus on reference words that make an argument unclear.

Maths: focus on ambiguous comparative wording while retaining numerical accuracy.

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.