

One Diagram, Three Sentences

Move from visible features to relationships and explanation.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose one diagram that supports description, relationship and explanation.

Teach it in four steps

1. Ask for a sentence describing a visible feature.
2. Add a sentence connecting two features or quantities.
3. Write a third sentence explaining the relationship using subject knowledge.
4. Check which claims come from the diagram and which require additional knowledge.

Worked classroom example

Science: "The upward force is 15 N." "It is 5 N greater than the downward force." "The resultant force is upward, so the object accelerates upward."

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

Check understanding

Change the quantities and check all three sentences, including direction and units.

Fade the support

Remove the sentence roles and ask learners to build a coherent explanation.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: describe, compare and explain a graph feature.

Humanities: describe a map distribution, identify a pattern and offer a supported explanation.

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.