

Before You Show the Text

Give learners a reason and a route into reading.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Preview the text and identify a meaningful reading purpose, not every unfamiliar word.

Teach it in four steps

1. Show the heading or relevant image and activate prior knowledge.
2. Set one question the text can answer.
3. Clarify only vocabulary that blocks the main idea.
4. Read and return to the question with evidence.

Worked classroom example

Geography: before a text on flooding, show a river photograph and ask “Why might building on this land increase risk?” Clarify floodplain if essential.

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

Check understanding

Ask learners to point to the sentence that answers the opening question.

Fade the support

Let learners formulate the reading question using headings and images.

Adapt it across subjects

Science: preview a process diagram before reading its explanation.

Maths: establish the context and goal before reading a problem.

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.