

The Instruction Check

Check what learners will do before the task begins.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Identify the first action and an essential condition in the instructions.

Teach it in four steps

1. Give the instruction once with necessary visual support.
2. Ask learners to show or restate the first action.
3. Check quantities, sequence and safety conditions before work begins.
4. Clarify the missing detail and check again with a different learner.

Worked classroom example

Science: after “Measure 20 mL and record the starting temperature”, ask learners to point to the measuring equipment and explain what they will record first.

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

Check understanding

Look for an accurate demonstration rather than agreement or a chorus of yes.

Fade the support

Remove the displayed sequence when learners can restate it accurately.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: ask learners to show the first plotted coordinate.

Humanities: ask learners to locate the source and the evidence they will select.

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.