

The Hidden Language of Science

Express scientific processes, mechanisms and evidence precisely.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Identify the scientific relationship the task needs: process, cause, comparison or evidence.

Teach it in four steps

1. Show the phenomenon or data before its wording.
2. Name the scientific mechanism or relationship.
3. Model language that preserves that relationship accurately.
4. Use a new example and check the scientific explanation.

Worked classroom example

Science: “Temperature increased” describes a change; “Energy was transferred to the substance, increasing particle motion” provides an explanation within the model.

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

Check understanding

Ask learners to distinguish description from explanation in two responses.

Fade the support

Remove sentence labels and retain only essential scientific terms.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: distinguish a numerical pattern from its justification.

Humanities: distinguish an event account from an explanation of its causes.

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.