

Read the Diagram Too

Connect a diagram, its labels and the accompanying text to explain a subject idea.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose a labelled diagram and a short related text. Keep the diagram visible while learners read.

Teach it in four steps

1. Look at the diagram: identify what it shows and the main parts.
2. Read the labels: connect each label to a part, arrow or process.
3. Use the diagram: explain what it shows using the labels and the text.
4. Check the meaning: use a new diagram to explain the same idea independently.

Worked example: Parts of a plant

Point to the root, stem and leaf. Explain how water travels from the roots through the stem to the leaves, using the diagram and its labels.

Teacher prompt: What does this part do? How does the diagram help you understand the text?

Check understanding

Give a fresh labelled diagram. Ask learners to connect two labels in a complete explanation.

Fade the support

Move from pointing and sentence openings to an independent spoken or written explanation.

Adapt it across subjects

Science: connect plant parts to their functions. Geography: explain a labelled water-cycle diagram. Maths: connect labels in a geometric diagram to the written 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.