Stop Asking for Volunteers

Collect a response from everyone before selecting contributions, so the check does not depend on volunteers.

3 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose one content goal and one language move to check before the lesson ends.

Teach it in four steps

1. Collect a response from everyone before selecting contributions, so the check does not depend on volunteers.
2. Collect one response from every learner.
3. Separate a conceptual error from difficulty expressing the idea.
4. Use the pattern to plan the next lesson’s retrieval or support.

Worked example: Stop Asking for Volunteers

Prompt: state the resultant force in the diagram and explain its effect. “5 N upwards, so upward acceleration” gives evidence of both a calculation and a relationship.

Teacher prompt: “Show the relationship and explain the choice you made.”

Check understanding

Return to the common gap with a new diagram at the next lesson.

Fade the support

Remove the explanation opening as learners gain control.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: one calculation plus its reason. Humanities: one source detail plus the claim it supports.

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.