From Pair Talk to Public Talk

Move from private rehearsal to pair explanation and then an independent public contribution.

3 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Prepare one focused prompt and define what a useful explanation includes.

Teach it in four steps

1. Move from private rehearsal to pair explanation and then an independent public contribution.
2. Ask each partner to rehearse an explanation.
3. The listener requests one missing reason or unclear detail.
4. The speaker improves the response before sharing independently.

Worked example: From Pair Talk to Public Talk

First: “It stays still because same.” Improved: “The upward contact force balances the book’s weight, so the resultant force is zero.” The second answer names the relationship.

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

Check understanding

Use a new object or motion state and check whether the learner explains without the partner.

Fade the support

Remove the sentence opening while keeping thinking and rehearsal time.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: rehearse a method justification. Humanities: rehearse a source-based interpretation.

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.