

Recast Without Interrupting Thinking

Recast one unclear phrase while preserving the learner's idea, then let the learner complete the explanation.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Prepare everyday and subject-specific versions of the same idea.

Teach it in four steps

1. Recast one unclear phrase while preserving the learner's idea, then let the learner complete the explanation.
2. Identify the word or phrase that makes the subject version more precise.
3. Rewrite one idea for a partner and for a formal subject response.
4. Check that the meaning survives the change in register.

Worked example: Recast Without Interrupting Thinking

Learner: "The force is more so go faster." Teacher: "The forward force is greater. Carry on: what does that mean for the resultant force?" The recast clarifies language without taking over the reasoning.

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

Check understanding

Ask learners to explain what the technical version adds and what stays the same.

Fade the support

Remove the paired model and ask learners to choose wording for a named audience.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: move from "the line gets steeper" to a precise statement about gradient. Humanities: move from everyday judgement to an evidence-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.