

Wait Time: Check What the Pause Changes

Check what the pause changes: compare a first response with a response after purposeful thinking or rehearsal.

3 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose a short question with plausible responses that reveal different misconceptions.

Teach it in four steps

1. Check what the pause changes: compare a first response with a response after purposeful thinking or rehearsal.
2. Present the question and ask every learner to choose privately.
3. Require a reason or evidence with the choice.
4. Use the response pattern to revisit the misconception or continue.

Worked example: Wait Time: Check What the Pause Changes

Collect a first answer to a hinge question, give time for a sketch or paired rehearsal, then collect a second answer and reason. Compare the change. If nothing improves, examine the prompt and task rather than assuming more silence is sufficient.

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

Check understanding

Check a fresh example after any explanation; do not infer understanding from a correct guess.

Fade the support

Remove choices and require an independent explanation.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: an almost-right fraction answer. Humanities: a source claim that overreaches its evidence.

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.