The Two-Minute Sketch

Ask learners to sketch the process from memory, then label only the parts they can name.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose an idea that can be represented quickly without artistic detail.

Teach it in four steps

1. Ask learners to sketch the process from memory, then label only the parts they can name.
2. Ask learners to label the essential features.
3. Use the sketch to explain a relationship to a partner.
4. Compare with the subject model and correct one meaningful omission.

Worked example: The Two-Minute Sketch

Sketch liquid particles close together but irregularly arranged. Labels and explanation matter more than neat circles. A regular lattice would misrepresent the liquid model.

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

Check understanding

Ask for the same idea in a different representation and compare meanings.

Fade the support

Remove supplied diagram outlines, then labels, while preserving the concept.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: sketch the relationship in a word problem. Humanities: sketch a cause-and-consequence map.

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.