

Spot the Assumption

Show a conclusion and ask what must be true for it to follow from the evidence.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose an explanation with an unstated condition that matters.

Teach it in four steps

1. Show a conclusion and ask what must be true for it to follow from the evidence.
2. Ask what must also be true for the conclusion to follow.
3. Test that assumption against the information available.
4. State the condition or limit explicitly in the revised explanation.

Worked example: Spot the Assumption

“More light caused more plant growth” assumes relevant conditions such as water supply were comparable. If water differed, the causal conclusion needs qualification.

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

Check understanding

Alter the hidden condition and ask whether the original conclusion still follows.

Fade the support

Remove the assumption prompts and ask learners to identify an unstated condition themselves.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: identify a condition under which a rule holds. Humanities: identify a source interpretation’s unsupported premise.

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.