

Make a Clarification Request

Practise asking “Do you mean...?” and “Can you show me where...?” during a group task.

3 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose information where a missing number, unit or relationship could change the meaning.

Teach it in four steps

1. Practise asking “Do you mean...?” and “Can you show me where...?” during a group task.
2. Identify precisely what is unclear.
3. Ask a focused clarification question and confirm the answer.
4. Use the clarified information, then check the shared outcome.

Worked example: Make a Clarification Request

“Did you say fifteen or fifty millilitres?” is more useful than “What?” when recording a volume. Confirm the value and unit before using it.

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

Check understanding

Check whether the clarified detail is accurately recorded and used.

Fade the support

Remove the question stems and ask learners to choose their own repair language.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: clarify a coordinate or condition. Humanities: clarify who a pronoun refers to in an account.

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.