

Find the Missing Unit

Show a calculation with its unit removed; learners restore the unit and explain its meaning.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Select a diagram or observation with precise quantities and visible features.

Teach it in four steps

1. Show a calculation with its unit removed; learners restore the unit and explain its meaning.
2. Choose accurate nouns, quantities, directions and units.
3. Replace vague wording with one measurable or locatable feature.
4. Check the description against the source without adding an unsupported cause.

Worked example: Find the Missing Unit

Show “the length increased by 4” and ask what is missing. Learners locate the measurement unit in the source and revise the sentence before interpreting the result.

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

Check understanding

Offer a different reading or image. Check precision and distinguish observation from inference.

Fade the support

Remove the word bank while retaining the source and units.

Adapt it across subjects

Maths: describe a graph interval. Humanities: describe a map pattern before explaining it.

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.