

Check Student Understanding: A Teacher's Quick Guide

1. Ask Students to Summarise

Purpose: To assess real-time comprehension.

Method: Pause at key moments during a lesson or while reading a text to ask students to summarise what they've understood so far.

Benefit: This approach prevents instructors from assuming that students are automatically absorbing the material. It also fosters active thinking among students.

2. Repeat Instructions

Purpose: To ensure clarity and understanding of tasks.

Method: After giving instructions for a task or activity, ask a couple of students to repeat the instructions back to you.

Benefit: This saves time by preventing misunderstandings that may require later corrections.

3. Cultivate Critical Thinking

Purpose: To foster critical thinking and engagement.

Method: Allow students the opportunity to agree or disagree with statements or opinions presented. Follow up with 'why?' to explore their reasoning.

Benefit: This method secures attention and encourages students to form their own opinions.

4. Encourage Thinking Aloud

Purpose: To promote metacognition.

Method: Encourage students to vocalise their thought processes as they approach a task.

Benefit: This helps instructors understand how students are approaching problem-solving and allows for timely intervention.

5. Ask Students to Explain Reasons

Purpose: To deepen understanding and analytical skills.

Method: When students express opinions or analyses, probe further by asking them to explain or defend their positions.

Benefit: This ensures that students are not simply providing stock responses but are truly engaged in analytical thinking.