07 Ask rather than guess

Aim

Request the missing information.

Prepare

Have the pupil sheet and relevant materials ready. Revisit one previously taught example; use a different example from any formal check.

Model - make the thinking visible

Say "Put it over there" without indicating an object or place. Model "Which thing? Where should it go?"

Practise and record

Use items 1-2 for supported practice and items 3-5 for individual attempts. Give each pupil a turn on all five, preventing peer copying. Record the support actually used, including a model on practice items. The session total is a teaching record; formal checks provide the fresh-task comparison.

Suggested answers / success criteria

1. Which thing? or equivalent.
2. Where?
3. Asks for first step/repetition.
4. Asks for meaning or demonstration.
5. Asks adult to clarify which instruction.

If pupils struggle

Offer two clarification phrases to choose between.

Next challenge

Role-play the request with an unfamiliar adult.

Classroom link

Agree that adults will respond positively to clarification requests.

07 Ask rather than guess

Name or code: _____ Date: _____

Try the tasks with your adult. You can say, show, sign, point or write your answer. Your adult can help you record it.

1. An adult says "Get that" without pointing. What could you ask?

---

2. An adult says "Put the book there" without showing a place.

---

3. You did not hear the first step.

---

4. You do not know what beside means.

---

5. Two people give different instructions.

Adult codes for tasks 1-5: ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Correct: ____ /5 Independent: ____ /5 Useful support: _____