

E-3: Check for academic understanding

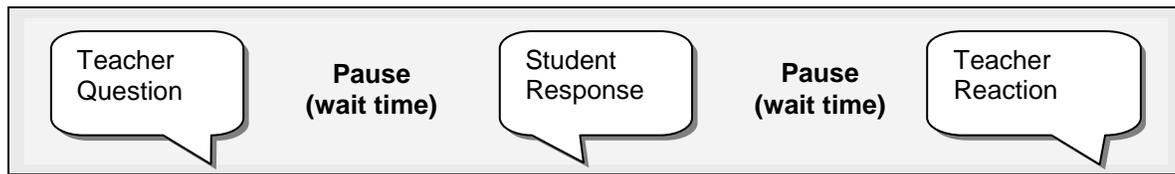
Deliver questions fairly and effectively

What should I do to deliver questions fairly and effectively?

Knowing what questions to ask is only part of the battle. You also need to carefully consider *how you ask* the questions. Even the best questions will not give you accurate information if you don't deliver them carefully. To ask questions in ways that encourage participation and comprehension of all students, follow these tips:

Use wait time

After you ask a question, pause for several seconds before having students respond. Doing this reserves time for students to process the question and think of the answer. This will enhance the quality of student responses and increase the number of students who are likely to engage in developing an answer. To give adequate wait-time, many teachers actually count to five silently before they ask for a response.



Pose the question before asking for student responses

Your Aim	Example	Explanation
Encouraging ALL students to think	"What is the difference between nouns and verbs ... (wait time) ... Vilma?"	When you ask the question in this way, most students will think of the answer in anticipation of your calling on them. When they hear Vilma's response, they may want to expand upon or challenge his answer as they have already formulated their own.
Encouraging ONE student to think	"Vilma, what is the difference between nouns and verbs ... (wait time)?"	When you ask the question in this way, Vilma is the only person who is prompted to truly prepare to give the answer. Most other students will tune out and wait to hear Vilma's response rather than think of their own answer.

Avoid giving away the answer

Don't lead students to the right answer by the way you ask the question. Use a neutral tone when you state a question, and don't word your question in a way that makes the answer obvious to students. If you don't do this, you won't know if students truly understand independently.

To help deliver questions effectively, see the questioning techniques that encourage and discourage student responses template (in the Tools section).