

# Effective stage transitions for better student engagement

## Webinar handout

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### Overview

Stage transitions are when we move from one activity to the next in a lesson. Short, smooth transitions enable students to see value in each activity, ensuring that students are on task and engaged more deeply in 'meaningful' lesson activities. Effective stage transitions also help students understand how lesson activities will help them achieve their larger learning goals.

### How can you achieve this successfully?

- 1. Know your aims.** Only when you are clear about the lesson aims and objectives – short and long term, can you highlight these to students in the lesson. Aims should be realistic goals, not too easy but not too difficult.
- 2. Signpost effectively.** Signposting is 'linking key learning points to specific learning outcomes or transitions between activities' (G. Petty). We need to give learners signs to highlight what they are doing in the lesson and how this relates to not only to the aim of the lesson but also real life.

Here are some ways to do this:

Eliciting	Linking	Extending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask students '<b>what</b>' they've learnt</li><li>• Elicit '<b>why</b>' they have done a task</li><li>• Discuss '<b>how</b>' this language point could help achieve the lesson aims</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Link one task to the next</li><li>• Connect the task to the final lesson task</li><li>• Relate the task to real life</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get learners to share an example of how they could use the language/apply the task to their own context/situation</li></ul>

- 3. Don't skip that reflection stage.** Consistently getting learners to reflect results in learner conditioning. The more they reflect, the better they'll be able to it! Reflection helps learners

identify areas for improvement and take charge of their learning. Get your learners to reflect in different ways during and at the end of a lesson, e.g., games and quizzes. If there isn't time, leave them with a reflection task for homework **BUT** never skip that reflection stage!

## Measure of success

Think about your students...

- Can they identify how the tasks are linked in a lesson?
- Are they completely engaged in the lesson tasks?
- Have they become more autonomous learners?
- Do they understand how lesson activities contribute to their larger learning goals?
- Can they practically apply the tasks to the real world?
- Can they reflect on what they've learnt?
- Do they feel a sense of achievement?

## Checklist for teachers - Are my stage transitions efficient?

Statement	Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree
My transitions short and meaningful.			
My aims are clear and linked directly to student progress.			
I can seamlessly elicit how the tasks connect with each other and it the final lesson objective.			
I can link lesson tasks easily – to each other and to the final task.			
I can extend and personalise tasks to enable learners to see the value in the tasks.			
My students are able to quickly reflect and review what was done in the lesson.			

## Summary

This session aimed at increasing awareness about stage transitions and its impact on learner engagement. Armed with a set of simple tools and techniques, you can work on smooth stage transitioning within a lesson to ensure your learners know where they are on their learning journey and where they need to be.

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 A recording of Ashlesha and Kathryn's webinar for World Teachers' Day 2023 can be watched here: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-events/world-teachers-day-2023/world-teachers-day-2023-saturday-7-october>