

# Giving Directions to Students Checklist

Teacher tool

Student tool

Ensuring that students understand your directions is essential to moving forward with instruction. When planning your lesson, use this checklist to guide you in giving students directions. Then reflect on what elements of your directions helped or did not help student understanding.

Write directions in student-appropriate language. If some students have reading challenges, provide them with a card that has simpler directions.

Read the directions aloud. You can also have a student do this, if appropriate.

Ask students to think about the directions for one minute and to ask clarifying (wondering) questions about them.

Or

Have students pair-share for one minute about the easiest or hardest part of the directions.

Call on a nonvolunteer student to restate the directions in his own words.

Ask a question about the directions, such as "When should you record your observations in your journal?" or "Which steps are the tricky ones? How do you know? What will you do to not get tricked here?"

Note which students and how many students are able to follow the directions successfully without further clarification.

1. What part of the process you followed for giving directions helped students successfully follow them?

2. What part of the process you followed for giving directions contributed to students not being able to follow them?

3. How can you individualize or adjust the direction procedure for subsequent lessons?