

Checking understanding: engage, review and refresh

Warm up activities assist students to quickly engage with the topic of the lecture/tutorial by encouraging them to think about what they already know. Active reflection on existing knowledge is an essential starting point on which to build new knowledge.

How to use warm ups

Warm up activities involve students in thinking and talking about what they learned previously and in predicting what will come next. These activities are quick and can be used at different stages of the lecture/tutorial; they can be used at the beginning, when a topic changes and to review at the end.

At the beginning of a lecture/tutorial

- Ask the students what they remember from the last session
- Use a focus question to brainstorm the topic of the lecture
- Ask students to respond to a series of statements (True/false)

Examples

- *What do you remember about from last week's lecture?*
- *What were the 3 most important things you learned last week?*
- *What do you thinkwill be about?*
- *How many of you have heard of ...?*
- *What do we mean by ...?*
- *True/False quiz*

To check understanding and guide discussion during class

- Use questioning to check understanding, analyse the topic and guide the students towards what will follow

Examples

- *What do you think is the most important thing we have talked about today?*
- *What would be the likely consequences of?*
- *Can you think of possible solutions for ...?*
- *Let's look at the issues relating to*
- *Why do you think these issues have emerged?*

At the end of a lecture/tutorial

- Ask students what they have learned in the lecture
- Ask students what they thought the most important point was
- Ask students to predict where the topic will go next

Examples

- *What are the 3 most important things you learned today?*
- *What do you think was the most important thing you learned today?*