

Checking Understanding

Education

Finding out what a class actually knows before spending the rest of the lesson on it.

Weak checks

- Does everyone understand?
- Any questions?
- Hands up if you got it
- Nodding and eye contact
- Circulating and looking at three books

Real checks

- Every pupil answers at the same time
- Mini whiteboards held up together
- A diagnostic item with real distractors
- Cold calling across the whole class
- Sampling books from the weakest first

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

A check is only a check if a plausible result would change your next move. Otherwise it is reassurance.

Pupils cannot reliably report their own understanding, and confident wrong answers are common. Ask them to do something, not to rate