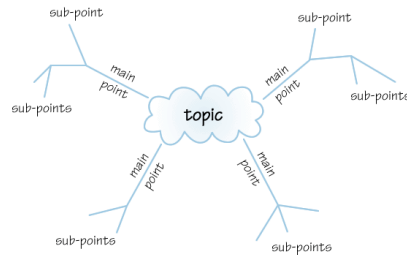


Understanding Language // Year 10+

Using key words

If a student is finding understanding questions or texts challenging, teach them to look for key words and underline these. Make a mind map from the information, and then ask the child to explain the subject to you in their own words. Drawing visuals or diagrams of complex information can help the student understand the key themes.



What	When	Where
Why	Who	Result

Title: _____

Characters	Location	Start
Build up	Climax/dilemma	Resolution/end

Note taking

Note taking can be simplified by providing worksheets with subheadings to help students to organise their notes. Gradually, encourage students to think of their own sub-headings.

Students will need to practise making notes from texts and from short amounts of spoken language before they will be able to successfully use these skills in the classroom. To practise making notes from written language, you can use simplified versions of curriculum texts, or news articles (such as those on the website for 'First News', a newspaper written for Young People). The 'First News' website also has short video clips you can use to practise making notes from spoken information.

Understanding

If a student is having difficulties understanding spoken language, encourage them to actively reflect on what they have understood. The student can either:

- Underline texts in colour codes (green = understood, orange = not sure/partially understand, red = not understood at all)
- Say following an instruction what they have understood, e.g. 'I know I need to hand in my assignment next Wednesday, which form do we have to hand in with the assignment?'

Encourage the students to use these and other *self-help strategies* to support their own understanding of language.