

50 classroom *phrases* that work.

Instructions, transitions, energy. Keep these in your back pocket.

GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

"In pairs — discuss for two minutes."	clear, short, timed
"You're A, you're B. A goes first."	removes hesitation
"Read it silently first. Then we'll talk."	protects thinking time
"Stand up, find a new partner."	energy reset
"I'll give you 90 seconds. Ready?"	creates urgency
"Don't write yet — just listen."	stops premature copying
"Use full sentences, please."	raises register
"Find three things you have in common."	framed task

CHECKING UNDERSTANDING

"Who can repeat what we're doing?"	elicits not asks
"Show me, don't tell me."	physical comprehension check
"What's the first step?"	tests sequence
"In your own words..."	real comprehension
"Is this true or false?"	fast binary check
"How long do you have?"	tests the timing
"Hands up if you're ready."	visual check

PROMPTING SPEECH

"Tell me more about that."	extends a short answer
"Can you give an example?"	moves from abstract to real
"What do you mean by...?"	presses for clarity
"And why is that?"	deepens reasoning
"Anyone disagree?"	creates debate energy
"In one sentence — what's the main idea?"	synthesises
"Say it again, but slower."	for pronunciation focus

CHANGING ENERGY

"Quick brain break — 30 seconds."	lowers tension
"Everyone stand. Stretch."	physical reset
"Switch partners — new energy."	social refresh
"Last one before the break."	creates push
"Big finish — give me your best answer."	raises stakes for fun
"Quietly now. Just think."	calms down a hot room

TRANSITIONS

"Right — let's move on to..."	clear gear shift
"Pause there. Big question coming."	raises attention
"Before we continue, one quick thing."	for a vocab note
"That's good — and it connects to..."	links lesson stages
"Let's park that for a second."	defers without dismissing
"Now for the harder one."	signals challenge

RESPONDING TO ANSWERS

"Interesting — say more."	open-ended encouragement
"Yes, and...?"	asks for elaboration
"Nearly. Anyone else?"	redirects without crushing
"That's the right idea — try the word again."	credits thinking, refocuses form
"Two of you said that. Anyone disagree?"	creates conversation
"Bold answer. Defend it."	praises risk-taking
"I hadn't thought of that."	real, equal-status response

CLOSING THE LESSON

"One word — what stuck today?"	fast recall
"Who learned something they'll use this week?"	tests transfer
"Thank you for the conversation."	respects them as adults

The 80/20 rule: Twenty phrases will cover eighty percent of your classroom needs. Pick five from this sheet, try them in your next lesson, and notice which ones land.