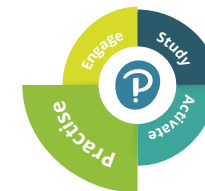


Distance Teaching

How to check students' understanding of new material after controlled practice



PRACTISE

Practising new language in an interactive environment

- instant feedback for students
- checking students' performance online
- tailoring the next lesson to target students' weak areas

In order to tailor the next lesson to target students' weak areas it is necessary to conduct a formative assessment with instant feedback from students. One way to do this is to use the Fist-to-Five method inspired by Canva.

Using the Fist-to-Five method in the virtual classroom

Ask your students to think how they are feeling about the new material, how confident they are, and if they are ready to submit their answers.

Next, ask them to show you the following finger code in their cameras:

- **A fist** I do not understand the material at all and cannot move on.
- **1 finger** I don't understand a lot of points and I need help before I can move on.
- **2 fingers** I understand half of the material.
- **3 fingers** I understand most of the material but I still need help with some points.
- **4 fingers** I understand the material and can do the tasks by myself.
- **5 fingers** I understand the material perfectly well and I can help a friend.

Getting instant feedback

This activity was originally developed to check how comfortable your students are when talking about some topics which are difficult to tackle, but it can be successfully applied to get instant feedback while teaching new grammar or vocabulary. You can also share the Canva poster with the Fist-to-Five method described on your screen during the video conference.

Alternatively...

There are other ways to quickly check if students are comfortable with the new material:

- Agree on a number code, where "1" means "I'm fine and we can move on" and "2" means "I don't understand and need some more explanation and practice". You can tell students to post the corresponding numbers in private messages in Zoom. This way your students will not feel embarrassed in front of their classmates because only you will see their reaction and modify the further learning process for everyone to benefit from it.
- You can also ask your students to hold up coloured post-it notes – green, yellow or red – to show if they are happy to move on with the lesson. You can download the printable Assessment for Learning Response cards from the Resources section.