



What Are CCQs and How Can English Teachers Use Them Effectively?

S06E03 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Concept-checking questions, or CCQs, help us check the meaning of language in a particular context. A short question about an essential distinction usually tells us more than asking whether everyone understands.

Our suggested routine

1. Gav and Em suggest: check the meaning, then use it Our suggested mini-lesson: establish “temporary” in “This is a temporary job; it ends in June.” The job lasts for a limited period. Check: “Will this job last forever?” No. “Does this job have an end date?” Yes. These questions check the meaning in this example rather than a learner’s ability to repeat a definition. Practice: choose another useful word from your lesson. Write its meaning in context, two simple questions and the expected answers. Ask a partner to check for ambiguity. Follow-up: learners create or choose an example of the word in use. If an answer is unexpected, check the question before deciding what needs clarifying.

After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

Notes for our next lesson

Read the full teaching article and listen to the episode at howtoenglishpod.com