

## Checking Understanding

How do you know that a student understands and can move on?

Here are some times when you need to check a student's understanding:

### 1. Vocabulary Words

**a. Basic:** TPR-Have the student act out the word, give an example, or use it in a sentence

#### **b. Deeper Understanding:**

-Do a comparison. For example, if the vocabulary word is "mountain". You ask, "Are there mountains (in student's hometown) in Somalia? How about in Minneapolis?"

-Share a personal experience and have the student share one.

For example, "I went skiing on a big mountain in Colorado."

"Now you share an example."

#### **c. Directions**

You can say, "Show me what do to" (gestures) or ask, "What did the teacher/book say to do? (Student tells you) and you ask, "What does that mean?"

#### **d. Reading**

Use "Wh-" Questions (Who, what, where, when, why, how)

If the "Wh-" question doesn't get a response, you can use a Yes/No question to lead into it

Example Wh- Question: "Where is Anita from?"

Example Yes/No Question: "Is Anita from Somalia?" No "Where is she from?"

Read through the example text. Write some "Wh- Questions" that you could ask a student in order to check understanding. Write one question for each "Wh-" word. Note that "why" and "how" are best used with more advanced students and/or with subject matter that a student already understand very well. Always begin with the basic ones (What, who, where, when).

1. What

2. Who

3. Where

4. When

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(More advanced)

5. Why

6. How