



# 6 WAYS TO MAKE LANGUAGE COMPREHENSIBLE

## Visuals and concrete objects

Instead of using English translation, use photos, drawings, videos, and even concrete objects to help learners make a target language association. Visuals should reflect target language cultures and deepen students' intercultural understanding as well.

## Gestures and signaling

Gestures and mime contribute to building understanding and increasing comprehension. It is particularly helpful when combined with other strategies.

## Cognates

Use words that look and/or sound similar in the shared language and the target language and mean the same thing. Remember that some cognates may seem obvious to you because you know the language but may not be obvious to students.

## Examples and common associations

Aid comprehension by giving examples and using common associations such as famous people, company brands, places, etc. Make sure you use references that students will understand.

## Target language equivalents

Use the target language to define new words through paraphrasing, defining words in simple terms, and using synonyms.

## Pacing and tone

Slowing down speech, simplifying language, changing your tone, repeating or rephrasing, and pausing to allow processing time are all strategies that facilitate student comprehension.

### Sources:

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