

Using Questioning as a Teaching Tool

The Art of Questioning

How can you accurately assess a learner's knowledge without discouraging the learner?
Below are a few strategies you may consider incorporating into your questioning strategies.

Align

Confirm learners understand the basics first. Ask questions that will assess rudimentary skills, then build depth of questions.

Scaffold

Learner asks a question correctly → follow-up with a more challenging question
Learner asks a question incorrectly → follow-up with a related question for learner to think through
Ask an open-ended question such as, "Tell me what you know about..." to fill in any knowledge gaps

Reassess

If a learner originally answers a question incorrectly, follow-up at a later time. Ensure they have mastered the key point.

Rephrase

Sometimes a learner may know the answer but is unclear on what you are asking. Reflect on what you're assessing and see if the question can be worded differently.

Use Peers

If you ask a learner a question and they do not know the answer, allow them to use their peers as a resource. Always circle back to the original learner and ask a related question to ensure he/she has mastered the material.

Encourage

Remind your learners they can ask questions! You create the welcoming learning environment.
Reinforce the concept that learning is continuous.