

How to give instructions to students in the classroom.

Scenario 1

Teacher: “Alright, everyone, listen up. I want you to take these photos and put them in the order they appear in the story. Work in groups. Start now.”

Scenario 2

Teacher: “Okay, class, please get in your groups. (Teacher points to the groups.) Here are the photos from the story we just read. (Teacher holds up a few photos.) I want you to put these photos in the order they appear in the story. (Teacher writes ‘Put photos in order’ on the board.) After you finish, talk in your group about why you think the photos are in that order.”

Scenario 3

Teacher: “Class, today we will work in groups to put in order photos from the story we just read. (Teacher holds up the book and shows the cover.) First, let’s look at the story quickly. (Teacher flips through the book, showing key illustrations.)”

Step 1: “Every group will get a set of photos from the story. (Teacher shows a sample set of photos.)”

Step 2: “You have to put these photos in the order they appear in the story. (Teacher demonstrates by placing a few photos in order on the board.)”

Step 3: “After arranging the photos, talk in your group about why you think the photos are in that order. (Teacher writes ‘Put photos in order, discuss order’ on the board.)”

Teacher: “Does everyone understand? (Teacher asks a few students to repeat the instructions.) Great, you may start now.”

Do the following in your group.

1. What was done differently in scenario 1, scenario 2 and scenario 3?
2. What makes scenario 3 a better way to give instructions to students? Why do you say that?
3. How does this help students to follow instructions?