

Classroom Starter Prompts

20 ready-to-use AI prompts for the moments that happen every single lesson.

Copy → swap the [brackets] → paste into your AI tool. No prompt engineering needed.

1

Copy the
prompt

2

Replace [brackets] with your
details

3

Paste into ChatGPT, Claude,
Gemini...

4

Edit the output before
using it

1 — Bell ringers & do-nows

[Bell ringer] Prompt 01

"Create a 3-question do-now activity for [subject] on the topic of [topic]. Students are in [year group / grade level]. Questions should take no more than 5 minutes and review prior knowledge from last lesson."

— **Customise:** Change the number of questions, time limit, or specify question types (MCQ, short answer, true/false).

💡 **Teacher tip:** Paste the output on your slide. Ask students to answer in silence while you take the register.

[Bell ringer] Prompt 02

"Write a 'this or that' starter activity for [topic] with 5 provocative statements students must agree or disagree with. Make them genuinely debatable, not obvious."

— **Customise:** Swap 'this or that' for 'true or false' or 'always, sometimes, never' depending on your subject.

💡 **Teacher tip:** Great for getting students talking immediately. Display statements one at a time for maximum effect.

2 — Discussion question starters

[Discussion] Prompt 03

"Generate 5 discussion questions about [topic] for [year group]. Include one recall question, two analysis questions, one evaluation question, and one open-ended 'big picture' question. Bloom's Taxonomy levels should increase progressively."

— **Customise:** Specify a particular angle — ethical, historical, scientific, or creative — to match your lesson focus.

💡 **Teacher tip:** Use the recall question to open discussion, then work up to the open-ended question to close the lesson.

[Discussion] Prompt 04

"Write a Socratic seminar starter question about [topic] that has no single correct answer and could sustain 20 minutes of discussion with [year group] students. Then write 3 follow-up probing questions."

— **Customise:** Specify a text, case study, or scenario you've already taught to ground the question in familiar material.

💡 **Teacher tip:** Share only the main question first. Reveal follow-ups as discussion slows — don't show all at once.

3 — Exit ticket builders

[Exit ticket] Prompt 05

"Create an exit ticket for a [subject] lesson on [topic] for [year group]. Include: one thing they should be able to explain, one thing they should be able to do, and one misconception to check for."

— **Customise:** Add a confidence rating scale (1–5) to help students self-assess and help you identify who needs follow-up.

💡 **Teacher tip:** Collect on index cards or a Google Form. Review before next lesson to adjust your starting activity.

[Exit ticket] Prompt 06

"Write a '3-2-1 exit ticket' for a lesson on [topic]: 3 things they learned, 2 things they found interesting, 1 question they still have. Make the prompts specific to [topic], not generic."

— **Customise:** Replace '3-2-1' with '2-1' for shorter lessons or younger students.

💡 **Teacher tip:** The '1 question' box is gold — collect these and open next lesson by answering a student's actual question.

4 — Differentiated task prompts

[Differentiation] Prompt 07

"Take this task: [paste your task here]. Rewrite it at three levels for [year group]: (A) scaffolded version with sentence starters and a worked example, (B) standard version as written, (C) extended version that adds complexity or requires application to a new context."

— **Customise:** Paste any existing task you've written — the AI adapts it rather than starting from scratch.

💡 **Teacher tip:** You don't need to hand out three separate sheets. Use a single sheet with clear labelling — students often self-select appropriately.

[Differentiation] Prompt 08

"I'm teaching [topic] to a mixed-ability [year group] class. Write 3 versions of a key question: one for students who are still building foundational understanding, one for students working at the expected level, and one for students who need more challenge. Keep the question topic the same across all three."

— **Customise:** Useful for warm-up questions, written tasks, or mini-whiteboards. All three versions should feel related.

💡 **Teacher tip:** Project all three versions and let students choose their starting level — builds metacognition and autonomy.

5 — More quick-use prompts

Vocabulary pre-teaching

"List the 8 most important vocabulary words a [year group] student needs before studying [topic]. For each word: plain-English definition, one example sentence, and one common misconception about the word."

Misconception buster

"What are the 5 most common misconceptions students have about [topic] at [year group] level? For each misconception: state it clearly, explain why students develop it, and give a brief teaching strategy to address it."

- Reduce the word count or ask for student-friendly visuals descriptions.

- Use before planning your lesson to pre-empt confusion before it happens.

Analogy generator

"Explain [concept] using an analogy that would resonate with [year group] students. Give me 3 different analogies and explain why each one works and where it breaks down."

- Specify a student interest (sport, music, gaming) for even more relatable analogies.

Worked example builder

"Create a fully worked example for [skill or process] in [subject] at [year group] level. Show each step clearly, label what is happening at each stage, and flag where students typically make errors."

- Ask for a second example with a deliberate error for students to spot and correct.

Remember: AI gives you a starting draft, not a finished resource.

Always read the output. Adjust for your students, your context, and your professional judgement. The prompts are the shortcut — your expertise is the quality control.