

# Mentor interaction: Anticipating and identifying misconceptions through questioning

In your next mentor interaction, your mentor may observe you using hinge questions to identify misconceptions in pupils' learning.

Structuring your questions to anticipate and identify misconceptions will not only give you useful assessment information on your pupils' knowledge and understanding, but it can be a useful barometer as to your own level of understanding of a concept.

The ease with which you can anticipate a misconception is directly related to how familiar you are with the subject matter. Being aware of common misconceptions, and discussing with experienced colleagues how to help pupils master important concepts, should be an ongoing exercise for you throughout your teaching career.

If you find you are not able to identify any potential common misconceptions around a concept, you may wish to talk this through with your mentor before you teach the lesson.



## Over to you!

To prepare for this observation, select an upcoming lesson and identify a hinge point within the lesson.

Using the [notes tab](#), or your own notebook, design an effective hinge question that you could ask at this point in the lesson that will help you identify the next steps in teaching and learning.

Ensure that:

- pupils can give an answer to the question quickly (two minutes or less)
- it allows you to ascertain pupils' levels of understanding
- you have anticipated common misconceptions.

You may wish to discuss the construction of this question at your next mentor interaction.