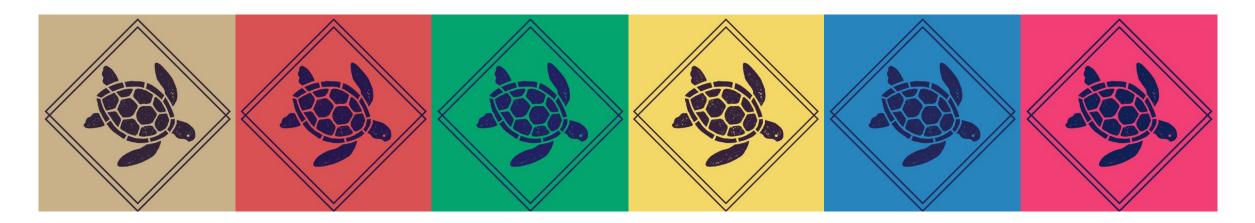
This resource was created by Commonwealth of Learning for the TVET Professional Development Toolkit for the Pacific



Commonwealth of Learning

# Teach practical skills

This resource supports the development of level 1, stage 1 design capabilities.





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## 1. Introduction

- When we talk about practical skills, we mean hands-on skills.
- For example, the practical skill of frying an egg includes doing these things:
  - switching on the stove
  - cracking the egg into a frying pan
  - removing the egg with a spatula.

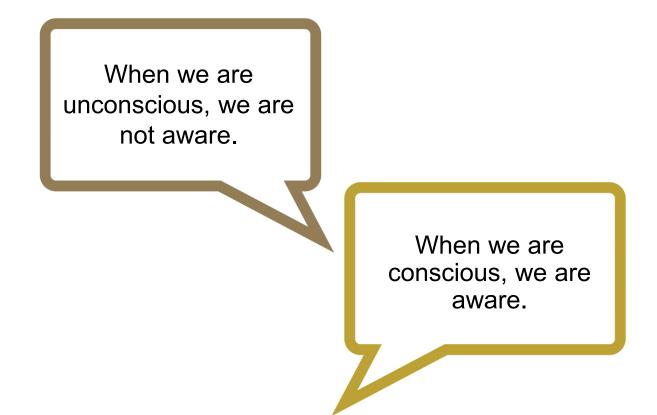


# 2. Competence



## What is competence?

- Competence refers to a person's ability to perform tasks to the standard needed in the workplace.
- Competency-based training focusses on supporting learners to become competent in skills and knowledge that are specified in a standard.
  - At first, we are consciously competent.
  - With practice, we become unconsciously competent.



#### Examples

- When you first get your driver's license, you are competent, but you still think about indicating. You might still be nervous in traffic. We call this conscious competence.
- As time goes on and you get more practice, driving becomes second nature. You do not have to think about indicating – you just do it. We call this unconscious competence.









#### How we learn

- We learn by using our senses.
- There is no right or wrong way to learn.
- We all learn in a variety of ways.
- Learners may prefer some ways of learning over other ways.
- When learners use more than one way to learn they improve their learning outcomes.





## Visual activities

- Learners see, watch, and observe.
- Activities and resources include:
  - Diagrams
  - Graphs
  - Photographs
  - Demonstrations
  - Modelling
  - Templates
  - Videos.
- Visual aids can help learners to see the big picture and how things fit together.

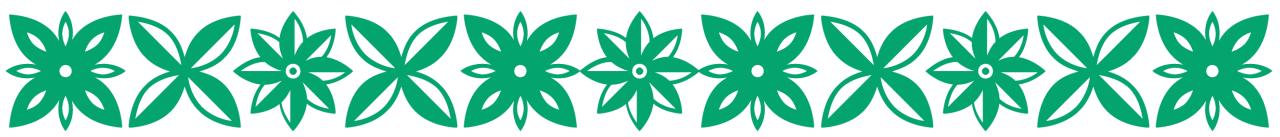




## Reading and writing activities



- Learners read and write about the topic.
- Activities and resources include:
  - Books
  - Online information
  - Written procedures
  - Checklists
  - Presentations
  - Research
  - Writing notes.



## Auditory activities

- Learners hear, listen, and discuss.
- Auditory activities include:
  - Lectures
  - Videos
  - Podcasts
  - Verbal instruction
  - Group discussion
  - Peer support





#### **Practical activities**

- Learners use their hands to practice, make, do, build, create, and have ago.
- This is also known as kinaesthetic learning.
- TVET learners often enjoy using their hands as they are often training for practical skills.

## Becoming a good trainer

- Find out about learners' preferences by:
  - Asking for feedback
  - Observing their engagement in sessions
  - Using formative assessment.
- Design activities using the approaches your learners prefer.
- Always use a variety of activities to teach each concept.

Formative assessment checks learners' progress toward learning outcomes.

Some easy methods to use, that do not stress the learners, are:

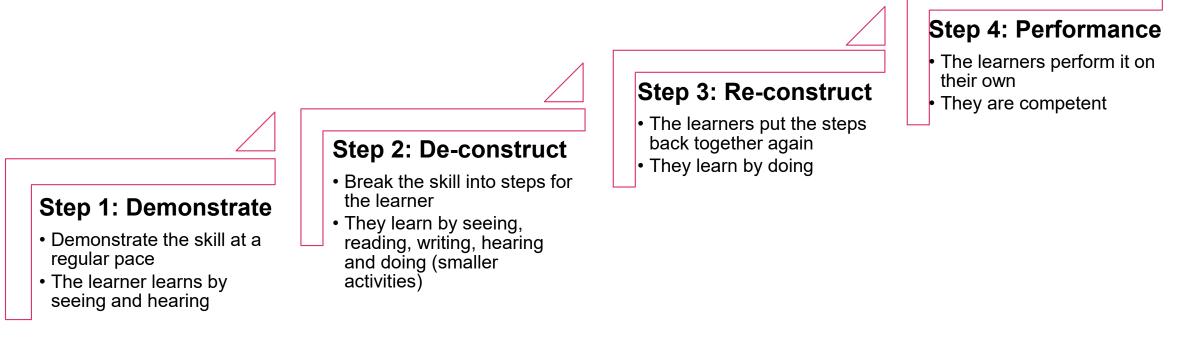
- A fun quiz try Mentimeter
- Observation watch and see how they are going
- Discussion chat through the topic to see if they understand
- Ask them –ask learners how confident they feel about their learning.





#### The steps

Rodney Peyton designed this approach to teach people how to do complex medical surgery. You can use the approach to teach anything practical.





## Step 1: Demonstrate

#### What is a demonstration?

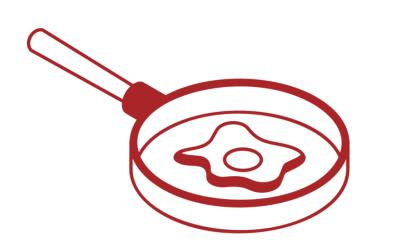
- Show your learners the skill at a normal pace and without comments.
  Demonstrate the skill in one of these ways:
  - Perform the skill yourself
  - Get someone else to perform the skill
  - Show a video of the skill being used
- This gives your learners an overview of what the skill looks like.

#### Why is this important?

- Learners can see what they are aiming for.
- A demonstration gives a model of what needs to be achieved.
- Imagine putting together a jig-saw puzzle. You will complete it much faster and with less frustration if you know what the final picture will be.



#### **Step 1: Examples**



#### Fry an egg

Show your learners how to fry an egg. You perform this skill at a regular pace. You do not give any explanation or guidance. You just show them what the skill should look like.



#### Install something

Show your learners how to build something, measure something, test something or install something.



#### Step 2: De-construct

#### What is deconstruction?

- Chunk the skill into smaller steps.
- Demonstrate again at a much slower pace and talk through each step.
- You could:
  - use a video and pause before or after each step to discuss
  - use a presentation with illustrations, diagrams or photos and give learners notes to refer to later

#### Why is this step important?

- There are often many small essential steps to completing a work task.
- Breaking down into these smaller steps allows learners to notice and learn about each of these.
- Spend time on every step, so your learners understand:
  - exactly how you do each step
  - why you do it this way.



## Step 2: Examples

#### Steps to fry an egg



- 1. Prepare the kitchen and equipment
- 2. Check the frying pan is ready
- 3. Crack the eggs
- 4. Cook the eggs
- 5. Remove the eggs from the frying pan with a spatula
- 6. Serve the eggs
- 7. Clean the kitchen

#### Steps to install something



- 1. Prepare the area for installation
- 2. Follow several steps (explain each in detail) to complete the installation
- 3. Check or test the installation
- 4. Clean the area
- 5. Carry out any maintenance on tools
- 6. Report any issues and what was completed



#### Step 3: Re-construct

- Re-constructing is putting the steps back together again to complete the whole task.
- An approach you can use:
  - 1. Give your learners a scenario where the skill is needed.
  - 2. Ask them you give you step-by-step instructions and directions while you do the task
  - You could also use a video or a guest presenter to do the task.
- Repeat this approach until your learners are consciously competent.
  - This means that they are competent and know they are competent.



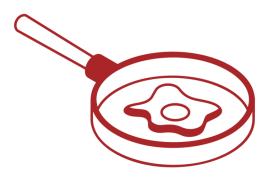
## Step 3: Further ideas

- Encourage learners to use active language, as if they are doing the steps themselves.
  - For example, "I am doing this. Next, I am doing that."
- When a learner says, "I would do it this way", it is like they are not the person doing the action.
- When they say, "I am doing this", it is like they are doing it themselves.
- This might seem like a small thing but saying it out loud important.
- By saying, "I am doing this", learners are preparing their brains, so that they can perform the skill themselves.



#### **Step 3: Examples**

#### Steps to fry an egg



- You fry the egg, but your learners tell you how to do it.
- Encourage them to begin with "I am".
  - I am checking that I have all the ingredients
  - I am checking that I have all the equipment
  - I am switching the stove on

Steps to install something



- You do the installation, but your learners will tell you how to do it.
- Encourage them to begin with "I am".
  - I am checking the surface by ...
  - I am mixing the cement by ...
  - I am using a hammer to ...



#### **Step 4: Performance**

- Learners perform the skill on their own.
- With practice, the skill becomes second nature to them.
- They can repeat it frequently.
- During this step, the learners become unconsciously competent.
  - They can perform the skill without thinking about the steps anymore.

