

## Conclusions: How Learning Comes Together

Write the end to this sentence or draw an image to represent it:

At the end of a lesson, I usually...

Most lessons end the same way they begin, with the teacher or trainer doing most of the talking. We summarize the key points, remind learners what was covered, and maybe ask if there are any questions. But conclusions are not just about wrapping things up. They are an important part of the learning process.

Conclusions are short closing activities where learners reflect on what they've learned, make sense of it, and think about how they will use it. This is where learning begins to come together. When learners take time to think about what they've learned, they begin to organize it in a way that makes sense to them. The big change is, instead of hearing a summary, they are creating one.

Conclusions also give learners a chance to look back on their progress. They can recognize what they understand now that they didn't before and begin to see how they might use it outside of the classroom. Another important part of conclusions is looking ahead. Learning is more likely to continue when learners decide how they will apply it. Even a small, specific next step can make a big difference.

Conclusions can also bring a sense of closure to the experience. A short moment of recognition or celebration can help learners leave with a positive feeling about what they've learned and what they've accomplished. Conclusions are not about repeating the content. They are about helping learners make meaning from it or plan to use it.

Now try this. Write one sentence that summarizes what you've taken away from this section and then add one next step. What is one thing you could try or change the next time you design the end of a lesson? You don't need a full plan. Just one clear idea is enough. After that, look back at how you finished the sentence at the beginning. Would you change or add anything based on what you've just read?

### A few easy ways to start

- **Four-Square feedback:**

Divide a page into four sections:

Connections: This connects to what I already know...

Concepts: The most important ideas I learned are...

Concrete Practice: One thing I plan to do with this is...

Conclusions: One final thought, question, or next step is...

- **One next step:** Learners write one thing they will try or change.

- **Celebrate:** Learners share one thing they can now do or understand that they couldn't before.