**What is it?**

- A teaching approach that involves the regular use of questions to stimulate learner thinking and actively engage the learner in the learning process

**Why is it important?**

- Using questioning appropriately facilitates the learning process by requiring the learner to participate in the process and achieve higher comprehension skills by acquiring deep, elaborate understanding of the subject. (Nicholl)
- Effective questions asked in a psychologically safe learning environment support student learning by probing for understanding, encouraging creativity, stimulating critical thinking, and enhancing confidence (Gose)
- Questions are among the most powerful teaching tools and adopting best practices can significantly enhance the quality of instruction. (Tofade)

**3 Tips to make it effective...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tips</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Make it safe</td>
<td>Advise learner that you use a questioning approach to teaching</td>
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<td>Remind learners that it’s okay to answer with “I don’t know”</td>
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<td>Adjust question level to learner ability</td>
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<td>Avoid “Guess what I’m thinking” questions (ie. “What is the key to success in managing hypertension?”)</td>
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2. Mix it up

- Ask both open and closed questions
- Ask questions that target various cognitive levels
- Ask questions that elicit learner attitudes and feelings
- Ask the learner what kinds of questions s/he might ask to gain more insight into a particular topic

3. Maintain the question train

- Provide adequate wait time for the learner to think and respond - avoid the temptation to answer for the learner
- Follow a weak or incorrect answer (or an “I don’t know”) with another question that helps the learner find a better answer
- Answer learner questions with counter questions that help the learner uncover the answer

**References:**