

IMPROVING TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS UNDERSTANDING AND LEVERAGING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE FOR STUDENT LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

The prior knowledge that a student brings into the lecture is one of the major factors influencing teaching effectiveness. It is therefore important that lecturers are able to ascertain the level of prior knowledge and adjust their teaching accordingly. This paper adopts an iterative learning model that seeks to enhance teaching effectiveness by developing and leveraging prior knowledge and illustrates this approach in the context of IST teaching.

The most important single factor influencing learning is what the learner already knows. Ascertain this and teach accordingly (Ausubel et al., 1978: 163).