A lesson plan is a detailed guide for teaching a lesson. It's a step-by-step guide that outlines the teacher's objectives for what the students will accomplish that day. [Creating a lesson plan](https://www.thoughtco.com/lesson-plan-template-8015) involves [setting goals](https://www.thoughtco.com/back-to-school-goal-setting-3111431), developing activities, and determining the materials that will be used. You can find a detailed description of the key components in the [Top 8 Components of a Well-Written Lesson Plan](https://www.thoughtco.com/components-of-a-well-written-lesson-plan-2081871).

**Learn the Benefits**

* Helps you to stay on track
* Helps to prepare for every step of the lesson
* Provides guidance for a substitute
* Helps you save time in the future (if you recycle your lessons)
* Helps you achieve your objectives
* Helps to think in an organized manner
* Inspires to improve future lessons

**Components of a Lesson Plan**

The easiest way to create a lesson plan is to use a [lesson plan template](https://www.thoughtco.com/blank-lesson-plan-template-2081845). This will help you stay prepared and organized.

* Objectives and Goals
* Anticipatory Set
* [Direct Instruction](https://www.thoughtco.com/lesson-plan-step-3-direct-instruction-2081852)
* Guided Practice
* Closure
* [Independent Practice](https://www.thoughtco.com/lesson-plan-step-6-independent-practice-2081854)
* Required Materials
* Assessment

**How to Write a Lesson Plan**

* **Find a Template** - The best way to write a lesson plan is to find a format you like. Do you need to add the [common core state standards](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-the-common-core-2081934)? Will you be using specific learning strategies in your lesson? Once you figure out what kind of [lesson plan](https://www.thoughtco.com/preparing-a-dynamic-lesson-plan-3194650) you will be writing, then you can figure out the best format that will fit your needs.
* **Fill it in** - Fill in the blanks of your template. Label your learning objectives, decide what materials you will be using, and clearly write out what the lesson will entail.

For additional tips, read [How to Write a Lesson Plan](https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-write-a-lesson-plan-2081858).

**What is a Mini-Lesson?**

A mini-lesson typically lasts about 15-20 minutes and focuses on a specific concept.

These quick lessons can be taught in-between lessons or when you have a few extra minutes to spare.

For additional information on mini-lessons and to view a template, read [Mini-Lesson Plans.](https://www.thoughtco.com/mini-lesson-plans-2081361)