Stuck?
Look up the keywords in a dictionary.

Stuck?
Ask another student to help you.

Stuck?
Look on the board and on the walls for ideas.

Stuck?
Check through your book to find useful work from other lessons.

Stuck?
Use the internet to find out more about the issue.

Stuck?
Use a coping strategy that you have used in another lesson.

Stuck?
Turn away from your friends if they are distracting you!

Stuck?
Look at the index of your textbook or at a list of keywords and try to use some.
Teaching notes

These tips are designed to encourage students to be more resilient and self-reliant.

You could use them in various ways:

a. Print them out as they are and give them to students to stick in their books.
b. Print the out and laminate them as mats.
c. Enlarge them to A4 size and print each one on different coloured paper as posters to display around the room.

Students should clearly show you that they have done at least two of these things before they approach you. This will then allow you to support those students who need help, but also to manage students’ behaviour. This also gives you the opportunity to demonstrate immediate differentiation (without requiring you to do anything).

Variations

Each time I have a differentiated task, I put up a picture on the board to remind students to take responsibility for themselves.

Encourage students to come up with their own tips.