For shop classes, students are required to build projects and walls. This requires them to accurately read and interrupt tape measures. Although this comes easy and feels natural for some, others are shocked and feel unprepared. To complicate matters further, we typically use metric measurements, but occasionally switch over to imperial. It is incredibly difficult to hit a specific height (to the millimeter) if you are unsure of which tiny line the instructor is referring too.

It's important to check prior knowledge, and check in with students while they are building. Can they accurately read metric measurements? It may seem like a simple task, one perhaps not worth class time, but when you remember how much relies on this ability it brings it back to focus. Take the time. Revisit the basics to make sure everybody is on track.