Comprehension Check Techniques

Comprehension check questions and answers: A comprehension check checks for facts, i.e., the students' understanding of what they have heard, seen, experienced, and/or read. In our classroom, there are two kinds of comprehension checks: action and Content.

a. Action comprehension checks: An "action" comprehension check, describes "actions" that are going to happen, are happening, and/or have happened in the classroom.

Examples:
(The teacher checks to see if the students understand her directions by asking the students to answer a comprehension check.)

T: Ss, please open your books to the reading on page 15. S1, what are you going to do?
S1: I'm going to open my book to the reading on page 15.

(The teacher gives the students practice in asking a comprehension check question.)
T: S2, please ask S3 the same question.
S2: S3, what are you going to do?
S3: I'm going to open my book to the reading on page 15.

(The teacher checks to see what the students did during their pair work exercise.)
T: S1, What did you do with your partner during the pair work?
S1: We asked each other questions and summarized.

b. Content comprehension check: A "content" comprehension check, checks the students' understanding or meaning of the content (topic/information) of what has been talked about, heard, seen, experienced, and/or read.

Examples:
(The class has done a reading about teenage dating in the U.S. In the reading, they learned that teenagers usually begin dating when they are 16 years old. The teacher uses a "content" comprehension check question to check to see what they learned from the reading.)
T: S3, when do teenagers usually begin dating in the U.S.?
S3: Teenagers usually begin dating when they are 16 years old.

(The class has been talking about health and sickness. S4 said that his brother is sick with a temperature. The teacher checks to see if the other students understood what S4 said about his brother.)
T: S1, what did S4 tell us about his brother?
S1: He said that his brother is sick with a temperature.