

CORRECTING POLITELY AND ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION

A2-B1 | Functional language for clear, polite communication

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use a polite correction when needed, or ask for clarification when you are unsure.

Do you mean ...?

Do you mean Wednesday, not Tuesday?

I think you mean ...

I think you mean 'went', not 'goed'.

Actually, I think it is ...

Actually, I think it is on the second floor.

Sorry, can you say that again?

Sorry, can you say that again?

Sorry, I don't understand.

Sorry, I don't understand the last part.

Could you repeat that, please?

Could you repeat that, please?

What does ... mean?

What does 'receipt' mean?

Can you speak more slowly, please?

Can you speak more slowly, please?

2 Respond to the situations

Write one polite correction or clarification question for each situation.

1. A classmate says, 'The test is on Tuesday,' but you think it is on Wednesday.

2. Your partner says, 'She goed to the shop yesterday.' Help them politely.

3. You cannot hear the final word in your teacher's sentence.

4. Someone uses the word 'receipt' and you do not know the meaning.

5. A visitor is speaking too fast for you to follow.

6. Your friend says the café is on the second floor, but you think it is on the first floor.

7. You do not understand the final part of a set of instructions.

8. Your partner says, 'I have saw that film before.' Help them politely.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and polite responses are also correct.

Encourage students to choose a phrase that suits the situation and relationship.

1. Do you mean Wednesday, not Tuesday? I thought the test was on Wednesday.

2. I think you mean, 'She went to the shop yesterday.'

3. Sorry, can you say that again? I did not hear the last word.

4. What does 'receipt' mean?

5. Can you speak more slowly, please? I want to understand everything.

6. Actually, I think it is on the first floor, not the second floor.

7. Sorry, I don't understand the last part. Could you repeat it, please?

8. I think you mean, 'I have seen that film before.'
