

ASKING FOR TIME TO THINK

A2-B1 | Functional language for delaying a decision politely

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases when you need time before giving an answer or making a decision.

Can I think about it?

Can I think about it before I decide?

Can I have a minute?

Can I have a minute to think?

Let me think.

Let me think. I am not sure yet.

Can I tell you later?

Can I tell you later this afternoon?

I need a little more time.

I need a little more time to decide.

Can we decide later?

Can we decide later, after lunch?

Could I check first?

Could I check my diary first?

I'll get back to you.

I'll get back to you tomorrow.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one response that asks for time in each situation.

1. A friend invites you to a party on Saturday, but you are not sure whether you are free.

2. Your teacher asks which topic you want for a class presentation. You need a moment to choose.

3. A colleague asks whether you can work late tomorrow, but you need to check your plans.

4. Your friends want to choose a restaurant now, but you would like to look at the menu first.

5. Someone asks if you want to join a sports club, but you do not want to decide immediately.

6. Your manager asks if you can attend a meeting next week. You need to check your diary.

7. A friend asks for an answer today, but you would prefer to think until tomorrow.

8. Your group wants to decide who will give the presentation, but you need more time.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

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

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

1. Can I think about it? I need to check whether I am free on Saturday.

2. Can I have a minute to think about the presentation topic?

3. Could I check first? I need to look at my plans for tomorrow.

4. Can we decide later? I would like to look at the menu first.

5. Let me think. I am not sure whether I want to join yet.

6. Could I check my diary first? I will get back to you soon.

7. Can I tell you tomorrow? I would like a little more time to think.

8. I need a little more time to decide who should give the presentation.
