

CLARIFYING AND CHECKING UNDERSTANDING

A2-B1 | Functional language for checking meaning and details

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases when you do not understand something or want to check a detail.

What do you mean?

What do you mean by 'flexible'?

Could you say that again?

Could you say that again, please?

Could you explain that?

Could you explain that a little more?

Do you mean ...?

Do you mean Monday or Tuesday?

So, ...?

So, we meet at nine, right?

Is that right?

The lesson is online - is that right?

Can I check ...?

Can I check the address with you?

What time exactly?

What time exactly does the train leave?

2 Respond to the situations

Write one natural question to clarify or check understanding in each situation.

1. Your teacher says that homework is optional, but you do not know whether you should do it.

2. A colleague gives you a meeting time quickly and you did not hear the time clearly.

3. Your friend says that the restaurant is near the station, but you need the exact location.

4. Someone tells you to bring formal clothes. You do not know what they mean by formal.

5. Your classmate says you will work in pairs, but you want to check who your partner is.

6. A customer asks for a 'big' coffee. You need to check which of your two sizes they mean.

7. Your manager says a report is due 'soon'. You need to know the date.

8. A friend invites you to a party and gives an address. You want to check the address before you go.

CLARIFYING AND CHECKING UNDERSTANDING

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. Do you mean that we do not have to do the homework?

2. Could you say the meeting time again, please?

3. Could you explain where near the station it is?

4. What do you mean by 'formal clothes'?

5. Can I check who my partner is?

6. Do you mean the medium size or the biggest size?

7. What date exactly is the report due?

8. Can I check the address with you before I go?
