

BUYING TIME WHILE SPEAKING

A2-B1 | Functional language for pausing while you think

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to pause naturally when you need time to think.

Let me think.

Let me think for a moment.

Hmm ...

Hmm, I'm not sure.

That's a good question.

That's a good question.

How can I say this?

How can I say this in English?

I'm not sure, but ...

I'm not sure, but I think so.

Just a moment.

Just a moment, please.

Well, ...

Well, I need to think.

I need a minute.

I need a minute to remember.

2 Respond to the situations

Write a short response that gives you time to think in each situation. Try to use a range of phrases.

1. Someone asks what your favourite film is, but you can't choose quickly.

2. A teacher asks why you are learning English.

3. Someone asks you to explain 'exhausted'.

4. Someone asks what you did last weekend, but you can't remember straight away.

5. A colleague asks whether a meeting is on Tuesday or Wednesday.

6. Someone asks you for directions, but you need to check your phone.

7. A teacher asks your opinion about a book.

8. A friend asks the name of a restaurant you visited.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

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Possible answers

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

Encourage students to use a range of phrase patterns from page 1.

1. Let me think. I like several films.

2. That is a good question. I want to travel and meet people.

3. How can I say this? It means very tired.

4. Hmm, I can't remember everything, but I stayed at home.

5. I'm not sure, but I think the meeting is on Wednesday.

6. Just a moment. I will check the map on my phone.

7. Well, I need a minute to think about the book.

8. I need a minute to remember the name of the restaurant.
