

PARAPHRASING: WHAT I MEAN IS

A2-B1 | Functional language for explaining an idea differently

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to say the same idea in a clearer or different way.

What I mean is ...

What I mean is, it is too expensive.

In other words, ...

In other words, we need more time.

Let me explain.

Let me explain it another way.

For example, ...

For example, you could take the bus.

It is like ...

It is like a small computer.

To say it another way, ...

To say it another way, it is very simple.

I mean ...

I mean, it is not ready yet.

So ...

So, we need to start again.

2 Respond to the situations

Write a short response that explains the idea more clearly. Try to use a range of phrases.

1. Explain that a restaurant costs too much money.

2. Explain that a project can't finish this week.

3. Explain what 'exhausted' means in simple words.

4. Explain one way to save money when travelling.

5. Explain what a smartphone is to someone unfamiliar with it.

6. Explain that a homework task is easy.

7. Explain that a meeting needs to start later.

8. Explain that a plan did not work and must change.

PARAPHRASING: WHAT I MEAN IS

A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3

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. What I mean is, the restaurant is too expensive for us.

2. In other words, we need more time to finish the project.

3. Let me explain. Exhausted means very tired.

4. For example, you could take the bus instead of a taxi.

5. It is like a small computer that you can carry.

6. To say it another way, the homework is very simple.

7. I mean, the meeting needs to start later today.

8. So, the plan did not work and we need to change it.
