

PARAPHRASING: WHAT I MEAN IS

B2-C1 | Functional language for restating an idea precisely

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to restate an idea clearly, accurately, and with suitable emphasis.

What I mean is ...

What I mean is, the timing is the issue.

To put it another way, ...

To put it another way, we need a simpler plan.

In other words, ...

In other words, the risk is increasing.

More specifically, ...

More specifically, we need more staff.

What I am trying to say is ...

What I am trying to say is, we should wait.

To be clear, ...

To be clear, this is not a final decision.

Put simply, ...

Put simply, the system is too slow.

The point is ...

The point is, customers need support.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one clear paraphrase for each situation. Try to use a range of phrases.

1. Explain that the problem is when a project will happen, not its cost.

2. Explain that a complicated proposal needs fewer steps.

3. Explain that a business risk is becoming more serious.

4. Explain that your team needs two extra people for a project.

5. Explain that a decision should wait until more data is available.

6. Explain that a manager's message is only a first idea.

7. Explain that an online system takes too long to use.

8. Explain why a new service needs better customer support.

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B2-C1 | 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. What I mean is, the issue is the timing of the project, not its cost.

2. To put it another way, the proposal needs to be simpler.

3. In other words, the risk is becoming more serious.

4. More specifically, we need two additional people on the project.

5. What I am trying to say is, we should wait for more data.

6. To be clear, the manager's message is not a final decision.

7. Put simply, the online system is too slow to use efficiently.

8. The point is, customers need better support when using the service.
