

SHOWING SURPRISE AND INTEREST

B2-C1 | Functional language for responding with engagement

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to respond with genuine interest and an appropriate follow-up.

That's remarkable.

That is remarkable. How did it happen?

I had no idea.

I had no idea that was possible.

That's fascinating.

That is fascinating. Tell me more.

What an achievement.

What an achievement. Well done.

I'm intrigued by ...

I am intrigued by that idea.

How did you manage ...?

How did you manage that?

That must have been ...

That must have been challenging.

I'd be interested to hear ...

I would be interested to hear more.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one engaged response for each situation. Try to use a range of phrases.

1. A colleague says they completed a marathon.

2. A client explains an unusual way their company uses your product.

3. A friend says they lived on a boat for a year.

4. A classmate says they received a scholarship.

5. Someone mentions a new approach to reducing waste.

6. A colleague says they solved a difficult technical problem alone.

7. A friend says they travelled across a country by bicycle.

8. A partner says customer feedback revealed a surprising result.

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B2-C1 | 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 an achievement. How did you prepare for the marathon?

2. That is fascinating. I would like to hear how it works in practice.

3. I had no idea. What was it like living on a boat?

4. That is remarkable. Congratulations on receiving the scholarship.

5. I am intrigued by that approach. How could we apply it here?

6. How did you manage to solve the problem on your own?

7. That must have been challenging. What was the best part of the trip?

8. I would be interested to hear more about that surprising result.
