

BUYING TIME WHILE SPEAKING

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for pausing while you think

Conversation: Remembering a useful place

Jess	Do you remember the name of the shop where you had your shoes repaired?
Owen	Let me think. It was on the street behind the market, but I can't remember the name.
Jess	Was it beside the bakery? I think I've seen a little shop there.
Owen	Hmm, yes, that sounds right. It had a green sign above the door.
Jess	Do you know whether it's open on Saturdays?
Owen	I'm not sure, but I think I went there on a Saturday morning.
Jess	I'll look it up before I go. What did they charge you?
Owen	I need a minute to remember. Around fifteen pounds, I think, but it depends on what needs fixing.

Key phrases: Let me think. / Hmm / I'm not sure, but / I need a minute

Conversation: Answering a class question

Teacher	Which place in your town would you recommend to a visitor, and why?
Student	That's a good question. There are a few places I like, but I'd probably choose the riverside park.
Teacher	What makes that different from the other parks?
Student	Well, you can walk beside the water and see the old bridge. There's also - how can I say this? - an area where people grow vegetables together.
Teacher	Do you mean a community garden?
Student	Yes, that's the phrase I wanted. People from the neighbourhood look after it together.
Teacher	What could a visitor do there?
Student	They could join a short tour. Just a moment - I think the tours are on Sundays, but I'd need to check the notice.

Key phrases: That's a good question. / Well / how can I say this? / Just a moment

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Answer a friend's questions about a place you remember imperfectly. Pause naturally rather than invent details.

Prompt 2: Respond to a question in class. Use thinking time to organise your answer and find an unfamiliar expression.