

PARAPHRASING

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for explaining an idea differently

Conversation: Explaining a flexible ticket

Traveller	What does 'flexible ticket' mean? Can I travel whenever I want?
Assistant	Not quite. What I mean is , you can choose a different train, but only within the times printed on the ticket.
Traveller	I don't understand the difference. Could you give me an example?
Assistant	For example , if you miss the eleven o'clock train, you can take the one at twelve without buying another ticket.
Traveller	But I couldn't use it tomorrow instead?
Assistant	That's right. In other words , the time can change, but the travel date stays the same.
Traveller	Okay. And I still have to go to the same station?
Assistant	Yes. So , you have a choice of train, not a different journey. The destination and date don't change.

Key phrases: What I mean is / For example / In other words / So

Conversation: Describing a quiet study space

Student A	You said the new study room is 'quiet, but not silent'. What do you mean?
Student B	Let me explain. You can talk about your work, but you can't make calls or play music.
Student A	So it's like the cafe area?
Student B	Not really. It's like a library room where small groups can help each other without disturbing everyone else.
Student A	Could we practise our presentation there?
Student B	Yes, if we speak quietly. I mean , we can discuss it, but we shouldn't perform it at full volume.
Student A	That makes sense. We can check the slides there and practise the speaking somewhere else.
Student B	Exactly. To say it another way , it's for working together, not for noisy activities.

Key phrases: Let me explain. / It's like / I mean / To say it another way

Create your own conversation

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

Prompt 1: Explain a rule in simpler words. Use an example to resolve a misunderstanding.

Prompt 2: Describe a space or service to someone who interprets your description differently. Restate the distinction clearly.