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IELTS



Requesting clarification

In the IELTS speaking test, you are allowed to ask the examiner to repeat or clarify if you did not understand or hear something.

Study the expressions below.

Function

***Requesting a definition
or synonym***

Examples

- ❖ Sorry, but could you explain what you mean by 'exaggerate'?
- ❖ I haven't heard that word before. Could you explain what it means?
- ❖ Sorry, I'm not sure what that word means. Could you explain it another way?
- ❖ Sorry, I don't know what 'exaggerate' means.
- ❖ Could you explain it another way?
- ❖ Sorry, I've forgotten what 'exaggerate' means. Could you explain it another way?



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In the IELTS speaking test, you are allowed to ask the examiner to repeat or clarify if you did not understand or hear something.

Study the expressions below.

Function

Asking for repetition

Examples

- ❖ Excuse me, I didn't quite catch that. Could you say it again?
- ❖ Sorry, I didn't hear what you said. Could you repeat it?
- ❖ I'm sorry, but would you mind repeating that? (more polite)



Requesting clarification

In the IELTS speaking test, you are allowed to ask the examiner to repeat or clarify if you did not understand or hear something.

Study the expressions below.

Function

Checking understanding

Examples

- ❖ Do you mean
- ❖ Are you asking?
- ❖ When you say, do you mean
- ❖ By ..., do you mean?
- ❖ When you say, are you including



Practice 1

1. What do you usually do in your leisure time?
2. How important are role models?
3. Can you tell me some scenic spots in your hometown?
4. How do people get around in your hometown?
5. What do you find tough about learning English?
6. What is the most popular resort in your country?
7. What can people do to reduce their carbon footprint?
8. How nutritious is your country's cuisine?
9. What kind of landscape do you have in your country?
10. What TV shows do you find amusing?



Practice 2

Each question contains an *ambiguous* word or phrase.

Check that you have understood correctly by using suitable expressions from page 1.

1. What is there to do in your town?
2. How large is your family?
3. How popular is junk food in your country?
4. Which celebrity do you admire?
5. How do people travel in your country?
6. What television shows are popular in your country?
7. What do you think are the typical character traits of people from your country?
8. Do you think people's lifestyles were healthier in the past?



Synonyms (Practice 1)

- **leisure time:** free time
- **role models:** people you look up to and respect
- **scenic spots:** beautiful places
- **get around:** travel by public transport
- **tough:** difficult
- **resort:** holiday destination
- **carbon footprint:** negative impact on the environment
- **nutritious:** healthy
- **landscape:** natural scenery
- **amusing:** funny





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