

Teaching IELTS Speaking: Interactive Classroom Activities

Suggested answers

Many more suitable answers are possible, so check if you wrote something different.

Checking/ Clarifying phrases (when the meaning of the question isn't clear, etc)

Sorry, I'm not sure what the question means.

Are you asking...?

Pardon?

Sorry, could you rephrase the question?

Sorry, could you say that another way?

Sorry, I'm not familiar with the word...

Sorry, what do you mean by...?

Sorry, could you repeat the question?

Sorry, is... a kind of...?

Sorry, can I speak about...?

Answering questions whose meanings aren't 100% clear phrases

It depends what you mean by... but...

Well, if you mean... my answer is...

Well, if you are asking..., I would say...

Assuming you mean..., I guess...

Commenting on the (mis)match between the question and your situation

Actually,...

Not that I can think of, but...

Vague answers/ Weak answers

It's difficult to think of... but I guess...

It's difficult to know what to say about..., but...

I'm not sure, but... I guess.

It's difficult to say for sure, but...

Strong language/ Strong answers

To be frank,...

Frankly,...

To be honest,...

(Other) thinking aloud phrases/ filling silence phrases

Well,...

Let me think.

Let me see.

I can't remember exactly, but...

I guess...

I suppose...

If I remember correctly,...

Ending answers phrases

... all kinds really.

... and that kind of thing.

... and stuff like that.

... and things like that.

... and so on.

That (really) is all I can think of to say.