

## Filling the gaps

Ask students what they do if they're speaking English and can't think of what to say next. Elicit ways of filling the gap to show that the speaker hasn't finished speaking. Some examples are below.

- ▶ Let me see.
- ▶ Let me think.
- ▶ I can't think of the right word.
- ▶ What's it called?
- ▶ What's the word again?
- ▶ How shall I put it?
- ▶ You know,
- ▶ I mean,
- ▶ Sort of,
- ▶ Er,
- ▶ Um,

Write the words and sentences on the board.

**This worksheet will help you with:**

- ▶ conversation in all situations
- ▶ GESE Grade 7, topic, interactive and conversation phases
- ▶ ISE I, topic and conversation tasks

## Activity 1

### Filling the gaps

In pairs, take turns to talk for a minute or two about a familiar subject. Here are some suggestions.

- ▶ Education
- ▶ Shopping
- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Village and city life
- ▶ Music

While you're speaking, use the words and sentences on the board to give yourself 'thinking time'. Try to avoid silences and of course don't use words from your own language.

## Activity 2

### Keeping the conversation going

Look at these sentences (1-8). What's the function of the underlined phrase or sentence? Choose from the functions A-C.

#### Functions (what the speaker is doing)

A giving yourself time to think before answering a question

B checking the listener understands

C saying something in a different way

Number	Response	Function (choose from A-C)
1	<u>Are you with me?</u>	B
2	Living in a village is cheaper than living in a city, <u>or rather</u> , you spend your money on different things.	C
3	That phone is very expensive. <u>What I mean is</u> , it isn't good value for money.	C
4	<u>I'm glad you asked me that.</u>	A
5	I'm not sure I can go to the cinema tomorrow. <u>That is</u> , I might be able to but I won't be sure till tomorrow afternoon.	C
6	<u>Do you see what I mean?</u>	B
7	Does he meet all the requirements for doing well at school? <u>In other words</u> , is he a good student?	C
8	<u>Well, I suppose on the whole I think ...</u>	A

**Explain** that fluent conversation doesn't just mean asking questions or giving information; it includes many other functions, such as:

- ▶ giving yourself time to think before answering a question
- ▶ checking the listener understands
- ▶ saying something in a different way



### Star test-taker activity



Here are four sentences about speaking in conversation. Draw a star by the three things you should do, and draw a line through the one thing you shouldn't do.

#### Good speakers:

- says something in different ways to make themselves clear. \*..
- fill in the silence while they're thinking about what to say. \*..
- ~~speak because they enjoy listening to themselves.~~ ....
- make sure the listener understands them. \*..