

Language Strategies When You Don't Understand

Casual Conversational English:

What?

Huh?

What did you say?

I don't get it.

Formal Spoken English:

Asking for Clarification:

I have a question about that.

I don't quite understand (the directions, your question).

What do you mean by _____?

Paraphrasing (Restating in Your Own Words):

So you mean that . . . (paraphrase: *you want to add more details*).

So you are saying that . . . (paraphrase: *the quiz will be tomorrow*).

In other words, you think that . . . (paraphrase).

So if I understand you correctly, you would like us to . . . (paraphrase).

you believe that . . . (paraphrase).

