

## Exam technique: Clarifying, paraphrasing and giving examples

**Exam tip:** You will be judged on how successfully you are able to paraphrase in the exam. You may want to, or be asked to, repeat what you have said but in a different way, or you may want to clarify what you have said.

To paraphrase well, you need to have a wide range of synonyms at your command, but knowing some phrases to introduce your rephrasing will also help.

If you think you have not expressed something exactly right, you can reformulate using the phrase in bold below.

*Patriotism is a terrible thing. **Let me rephrase that:** patriotism is not always a force for good.*

You could also say, **Or, more accurately, ...**

- 1 Listen to both phrases being used, and repeat.
- 2 Why do you think this candidate wanted to rephrase the first sentence?

To explain more fully a point you have made, you can use the following phrase:

*My house is too small. **What I mean is that** it is too small for our family, because there are so many of us. For an average-sized family it would do very well.*

You could also say **Or, to put it another way, ...**

- 1 Listen to both phrases being used, and repeat.
- 2 Is this speaker's house big or small?

To say something in a different way, especially a clearer or simpler way, use the phrase below.

*People from my village are suspicious of foreigners. **In other words,** they're xenophobic.*

- 3 Listen and repeat.

You will often want to illustrate your argument with an example. You will be familiar with the phrases *for example* and *for instance*, but note that they do not have to come at the beginning of a sentence.

- 4 Where do you think the speakers insert the phrases? Listen to check.

*People in the past were not so mobile. My grandparents lived all their lives in the town where they were born.*

*People in my country like foreign cuisine. Korean restaurants are very popular as are Chinese restaurants.*

- 5 Learn the phrases in this section and use them when answering the practice exam questions.