


## Exam techniques: Giving yourself time to think

-  1 Listen to a candidate talking to the examiner during the exam. What language does she use to give herself time to think?

Now read Track 36 on page 110 and underline the language she uses.

**Exam tip:** Although you should not overuse language such as *um* and *er*, using such language is not a sign of 'bad English'. All native speakers make use of these strategies.


- 2 You can also use whole phrases to give yourself time to think:

*That's a tough question.*

*That's an interesting question.*

*It's very difficult to know for sure, but I think/perhaps/it's possible ...*

Play Track 36 and listen to the examiner's question again. Respond using one of the phrases above.

-  3 Listen and underline the language the candidates use to contradict the examiner politely (see also Track 37, page 110).

To be polite, you must use polite language together with polite intonation. Listen again and imitate the speakers' intonation.

- 4 You may want to confirm what the examiner says. Read the exchanges below and underline the language the candidates use to do that.

**Examiner:** Are social networking sites the most popular way for young people to communicate with each other?

**Candidate:** Yes, they certainly are. It's no doubt because it is free and simple ...

**Examiner:** Are you saying that more and more people are texting to keep in touch?

**Candidate:** Precisely. It is fast becoming the most popular means of communication ...