

## Paraphrase

A paraphrase is a response that reflects the meaning, or understood meaning, of a speaker by using different words to increase clarity. In learning-focused conversations, the purposeful use of paraphrase produces several positive results:

- It signals to the speaker that they have our full attention.
- It communicates our value for understanding the speaker's thoughts, concerns, questions, and ideas, thereby indicating value for the person, as well.
- It provides a launching point, connecting whatever follows—a question or consulting move for example—to the speaker's context or concern.

## Three Types of Paraphrase

### Acknowledge and Clarify

The **acknowledge/clarify** paraphrase restates the essence of someone's statements. In this way, this paraphrase provides an opportunity to identify and directly reflect the speaker's content and emotions. This paraphrase is likely to be the longest of the three types, but never longer than the initial statement. Notice the purposeful elimination of the pronoun "I".

SCAFFOLD:

- So, you're feeling \_\_\_\_\_
- You're noticing that \_\_\_\_\_
- In other words \_\_\_\_\_
- Hmm, you're suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

### Summarize and Organize

**Summarize/organize** paraphrases offer themes and containers which shape the initiating statement or separate jumbled issues. This type of paraphrase is useful when there has been a great deal said in a long stream of language and/or when a complex, or multi-faceted issue is presented.

SCAFFOLD:

- So, there seem to be two key issues here \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- On the one hand, there is \_\_\_\_\_ and on the other hand there is \_\_\_\_\_.
- For you then, several themes are emerging: \_\_\_\_\_
- It seems you're considering a sequence, here. First \_\_\_\_\_, and then \_\_\_\_\_, and finally \_\_\_\_\_.

### Shift Level of Abstraction—up or down

The **shift level of abstraction** paraphrase reflects the speaker's language more globally or more specifically. These language shifts, in turn, influence the speaker's thinking. The intention of shifting up is to illuminate large ideas or categories, in order to explore potentially broad applications, expand possible solutions to presenting issues, or determine possibilities for transfer. We move to higher levels of abstraction by naming the big ideas: including concepts, categories, goals, and values.

When shifting down, an abstract conversation is grounded with specific examples and details. This, in turn, encourages the speaker to contribute additional descriptions and examples. We move to lower levels of abstraction when concepts need grounding, offering specific examples or pertinent details.

SCAFFOLD:

- So a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ for you might be \_\_\_\_\_

Shifting up: Category, value, belief, goal, assumption

Shifting down: Example, non-example

### Directions:

1. Listen to the video.\* Generate an acknowledge/clarify paraphrase.
2. Listen again. Generate a summarize/organize paraphrase.
3. Once more, listen and generate a shift up OR shift down paraphrase.

\*Download video clips at [www.miravia.com/resources/mm-video-exercises](http://www.miravia.com/resources/mm-video-exercises)