SPEAKING SKILL Asking for and Giving Clarification

When participating in a conversation, you often need to ask for or give clarification. Here are some expressions you can use:

Asking for Clarification	Giving Clarification
I'm sorry, did you say . . . ?	*No, I said that . . .*
Excuse me, I have a question.	*Let me explain.*
Could you please explain that?	*Yes, I mean that . . .*
Do you mean that . . . ?	*To put it another way, . . .*
I'm afraid I don't understand.	*In other words, . . .*

A 1.21 Read and listen to the conversation. Write the missing phrases you hear.

Emily: During the lecture, you said that the cowboy tradition in Mexico began in the 1600s. _____ (1) the situation there today?

Professor Diaz: Certainly. Some cowboys in Mexico are workers who live with the cattle and take care of them. The ranches there can be very large, and cattle need to be moved from place to place, so there are still cowboys working in Mexico today.

Liam: You talked about *two* kinds of cowboys in Mexico. _____ (2) them again?

Professor Diaz: Sure. The most famous cowboys in Mexico are the *charros*. They ride their horses in contests called *charreadas*. The other kind of cowboys are the *vaqueros*—the ones who work with cattle every day.

Liam: _____ (3). What kind of work do *charros* do, exactly?

Professor Diaz: I'll _____ (4). For *charros*, riding horses and roping cattle is mostly a sport, or a hobby. *Charros* have many of the same skills as any cowboy, and they perform those skills for an audience in the *charreada* events. But for the *vaqueros*, this is their job. It's how they make a living.

Liam: OK. So, Manuel Rodriguez . . . the cowboy in the book . . . is a *vaquero*, not a *charro*, right?

Professor Diaz: Exactly!

Emily: Just to clarify, _____ (5) *charros* aren't real cowboys?

Professor Diaz: No, _____ (6) *charros are* a part of the cowboy tradition, but many of them don't do it as actual work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS