

SPEAKING ACTIVITY – A1

Checking understanding

In this video, Paul has problems understanding Bob. Listen to the language they use for checking understanding and practise saying the useful phrases.

Do the preparation exercise first. Then watch the video and do the exercises to check your understanding and practise the language.

PREPARATION

1 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

sorry	I'm	→					
hear you	I can't	very well	→				
that	you	say	Could	again, please?	→		
understand.	don't	I	→				
more slowly,	Can	please?	that	you repeat	→		
						←	
mean	the hammer?	you	Do	→			
it?	this	Is	→				
Yes,	right!	that's	→				

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TASK 1

1 Are the sentences true or false?

1. Bob wants the hammer.	True	False
2. Paul is ill.	True	False
3. The hammer is in the toolbox.	True	False
4. The hammer is on the right.	True	False
5. Paul gives Bob the scissors.	True	False
6. Paul thinks Bob spoke clearly.	True	False

TASK 2

2 Complete the dialogue.

sorry repeat understand hear right this well mean slowly

Bob: Excuse me, Paul, could you pass me the hammer?

Paul: I'm _____, Bob, my ears are blocked. I can't _____ you very
_____. Could you say that again, please?

Bob: The hammer. Please could you pass it to me?

Paul: Sorry, Bob, I don't _____.

Bob: No, Paul – I need the hammer. It's in the toolbox, on the left, under the scissors.

Paul: Sorry, Bob. Can you _____ that more _____, please?

Bob: The hammer ... in the toolbox ... on the left ... under the scissors.

Paul: On the left ... under the scissors ... Ah! Do you _____ the hammer? Is _____
it?

Bob: Yes, that's _____.

TASK 3

3 Write the words to fill the gaps.

Receptionist: (Phone ringing) Good morning.

Caller: Good morning. Is Noelia there, please?

Receptionist: I'm _____. I can't _____ you very well.

Caller: Noelia. I have a package for her. I'm in a van in the street.

Receptionist: I'm sorry. Could you _____ that _____, please?

Caller: I'm in a van. I've got a package for Noelia.

Receptionist: Ah! OK. You can park here. The code is 367HGV57.

Caller: OK. Do you _____ the company car park?

Receptionist: Yes.

Caller: OK. Sorry, can you _____ the code more _____, please?

Receptionist: Yes, sorry! 3 ... 6 ... 7 ... H ... G ... V ... 5 ... 7.

Caller: OK. 367 ... HGV ... 57?

Receptionist: Yes, that's _____!

Transcript

Ana: Hi, I'm Ana. Welcome to What to Say!

Do you know what to say when you want to check your understanding? Listen out for useful language for checking your understanding. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Bob: This isn't right. Hey! Excuse me, Paul, could you pass me the hammer?

Paul: Sorry, Bob, my ears are blocked. I can't hear you very well. Could you say that again, please?

Bob: The hammer. Please could you pass it to me?

Paul: The spanner?

Bob: No. The hammer!

Paul: Sorry, Bob, I don't understand. This is the spanner!

SPEAKING ACTIVITY – A1

Bob: No, Paul, I need the hammer. It's in the toolbox, on the left, under the scissors.

Paul: Sorry, Bob. Could you repeat that more slowly, please?

Bob: The hammer ... in the toolbox ... on the left ... under the scissors.

Paul: On the left ... under the scissors ... Oh! Do you mean the hammer? Is this it?

Bob: Yes, that's right!

Paul: Ah! Why didn't you say so?

Bob: I did!

Ana: Hello again! Oh dear. I think Paul needs to go home and sleep. So, did you notice the useful phrases used for checking your understanding? Listen to me and then repeat.

I'm sorry?

I can't hear you very well.

Could you say that again, please?

I don't understand.

Can you repeat that more slowly, please?

Do you mean the hammer?

Is this it?

Yes, that's right!

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you want to check your understanding in English. Bye for now!