

We often have conversations because we want to understand something better or learn more. In order to share our ideas clearly, we will need a few skills. One skill is to **elaborate**, or explain more, when people don't understand or believe what we have said.

Sometimes a person in the conversation has to *prompt* (or ask) the person to **elaborate**.

Words and phrases that people say when they need someone to elaborate:

- ▶ *Can you say more about that?*
- ▶ *Can you elaborate?*
- ▶ *Tell me more about...*
- ▶ *Can you explain your reasoning to me?*
- ▶ *Can you clarify the part about...?*
- ▶ *Why do you think that?*
- ▶ *What do you mean by...?*

Words and phrases that people say when they are elaborating for someone:

- ▶ *Sure, let me be more clear...*
- ▶ *To be more specific, I should add that...*
- ▶ *It's like when...*
- ▶ *It's similar to the idea that...*