



**Access English Centre  
Immigrant Centre Manitoba  
Activity Plan - High Beginner  
Daily Conversation Skills Part 1 - Ask for  
Clarification - "I'm sorry. I don't understand."**



**90 minutes**

**Objective/Goal:**

This activity requires the participants to work together to learn how to ask for clarification when they don't understand something and how to politely interrupt for clarification.

**Materials:**

Participants need: a worksheet of new words and picture, a matching game sheet, and flash cards.

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard
- whiteboard markers

**Procedure:** Warm-up 15 min  
Work-out 60 min  
Cool-down 15 min

**Procedure: Asking for Clarification** - pre-teach the following phrases and vocabulary words:

1. I'm sorry.
2. Pardon me.
3. Excuse me.
4. May I interrupt ...
5. Speak slowly, please.
6. Repeat, please.
7. I don't understand.
8. What does the word "carpool" mean?
9. What do you mean?

**Before you begin:**

On the whiteboard write: **"Daily Communication Skills – how to ask for clarification, and how to politely interrupt in a conversation."** Lead the group to read aloud the new phrases and short sentences a few times. Make sure the participants understand the meaning of the phrases.

Ask the whole group **"What do you say to people if you don't understand"**

something?" Encourage the participants to say **"Sorry, I don't understand."** Or **"Sorry. Can you say again, please?"** Or, **"Sorry, What do you mean?"** Or **"Sorry, do you mean ...?"**

## 1. Warm-up Activity

**Explain and model the activity** with a few volunteers participants. Then ask the group to follow the model and practice the short dialogue below:

**Susan:** Halima, Can you work **overtime** tomorrow?

**Halima:** **Sorry. "Overtime?" What does it mean?**

Jashan: Joanna. Can we carpool with you tomorrow?

Joanna: **Pardon me. What does the word "carpool" mean?**

## 2. Work-out Activity :

**Whole class Practice Drill #1:** Have participants repeat the verbal phrases, vocabulary and the sentences with you a few times. Make sure they understand the meaning of the phrases or the new words.

Review the vocabulary by holding up the pictures and words and then asking the whole group to repeat the prompts.

**A:** "Can you give me a ride home?"

**B:** **"Sorry, What do you mean "give you a ride?"**

**A:** "I meant, Can you drive me home?"

**Whole class Practice Drill #2:** Have participants say the correct sentence that matches the picture prompt.

This is how it works: Ask the group "Can you give me a hand?" and then ask them " *Do you understand the meaning of "give me a hand"?*

Encourage the participants to ask for clarification, such as **"What do you mean by "give me a hand?"**

Alternate between asking the whole group, and individual participants.

- **Model all** of the partner activities before doing **Drill 2**, and make sure the participants understand your instructions.
- **Partner Practice Drill:** Give each pair of participants a set of the words and pictures. Ask participants to work with their partner to practice the

frame sentences such as:

**"Sorry. I don't understand."** **"Sorry. Do you mean....?"** They then get a picture or word card from the pile and an answer to the frame sentence. For example **"Over time means** you come to work on Saturday."

- Play the memory game with the whole group by saying one word and then call on a volunteer to use the word in a sentence. Then have the group repeat the sentence aloud.

### **3. Cool Down.**

Recap the activities by encouraging the participants to use the proper phrases to ask for clarification.

# I'm sorry. What do you mean?

**I enjoy winter activities  
very much.**



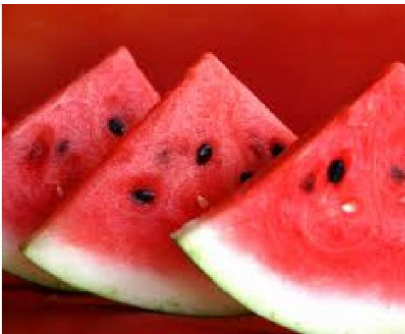
**I give my friend a ride  
every day.**



**I work overtime  
sometimes.**



**My favourite fruit is  
watermelon.**



**You must come in  
person to register.**



**We assess your  
English first.**



**You are very late.**



**I like to carpool to work.**



**Your own sentence.**

## QUESTION CARDS (use with clarification gambits)

Learning how to ask for clarification Cut up the question cards.  
Participants take one question card, and then pick up a gambit card (on the next page) to use in getting clarification when listening to an answer, or giving an answer.

I <b>enjoy</b> winter activities very much.	I give my friend <b>a ride</b> every day.	I work <b>overtime</b> sometimes.
My <b>favorite</b> fruit is watermelon.	You must come <b>in person</b> to register.	We do an <b>assessment</b> first.
You are very <b>late</b> .	I like to <b>carpool</b> to work.	Ask your own question

Sorry. What do you mean?	<b>A ride</b> ? What does it mean?	What does the word <b>overtime</b> mean?
What does the word <b>favorite</b> mean?	What do you mean " <b>in person</b> "?	Do you mean that you will <b>test</b> me?
What does the word " <b>Late</b> " mean?	What is " <b>carpool</b> "?	Ask your own question