

EXERCISE 4: USING YOUR OWN WORDS

Quick Fact Chart	
Overview	One student talks about a topic. Another student listens to the talk, then repeats the information using his or her own words.
Academic Skills	Responding to a prompt on a test. Speaking about materials you have read or lectures you have heard Presenting an oral summary
TOEFL Skills	Integrated tasks: reading/speaking, listening/speaking, and reading/listening/speaking
Time	10–20 minutes
Related Pages in Textbook	Using Your Own Words, page 190
Extension Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking student responds longer—for up to one minute • Listening student may take notes • Students listen to a short lecture, or read the lecture, from the textbook and paraphrase it. Recommended lectures: Building Skills, Listening for Main Ideas Practice 1, Lecture: Economic Conditions (transcript page 239) Practice 2, Conversation: Two students (paraphrase either the male or female: transcript pages 239–40) Practice 3, Lecture: Gender (page 242) Building Skills, Listening for Details Practice 3, Lecture: Modern Social Change (pages 249–50)

1. The teacher will model this speaking activity for the class. On the board, the teacher writes a prompt:

Prompt: *Think about a helpful classmate. Give three reasons to explain what features make this person so helpful.*

A student answers the question. For example:

“There’s a girl in my science class who is always helpful. She offers to share her class notes, she loans me books, and she offers to make copies of handouts or other things I’ve missed.”

Then the teacher will paraphrase the student’s reply. For example:

“A helpful student shares what she can. She may share information, books, notes, or handouts.”

2. Students will work in groups of three. One student responds briefly to one of the TOEFL-like prompts (list prompts on board). Another student paraphrases the response. The third student listens to make sure that the paraphrased information is correct and that the paraphrase uses new wording.

TOEFL-Like Prompts
<i>What was your most rewarding class?</i>
<i>Summarize the homework and major school projects that you did last week.</i>
<i>Talk about the best sports coach or other team leader you ever had.</i>
<i>Which do you like better, sciences or humanities, and why?</i>
<i>Explain how you recently chose to read a specific book.</i>
<i>Summarize the process of applying for college in your country.</i>