



Trade it!

C1-C2

Module 9

Here's What We
Will Be Learning
in this
Presentation:



SUMMARY

- ❑ Role Play: Trade Away.
- ❑ What Are Vague Expressions?
- ❑ Exercises.

Role Play: Trade Away

Jim: That new Samsung phone is amazing! It has an infinity display, it's water resistant, has an end-to-end screen...

Bob: Uh..huh. Very nice. **So**?

Jim: **So**, I wish I hadn't purchased a new smartphone just days before the Samsung phone was launched.

Bob: Why? Your phone isn't great?

Jim: It's perfectly fine, it's just not a Samsung phone.

Bob: Aah! Well, you can sell your phone. Or gift it to someone.

Jim: Maybe. I could trade it for something else. Do you want it?

Bob: Me? No, thanks. My sister was **sort of** looking to buy a new phone. I could speak to her.



(After speaking to Bob's sister)

Bob: She would like to see your phone. She also wants to know what you would like to exchange it for.



Jim: Umm...what does she have that is worth exchanging?

Bob: A pair of Skullcandy headphones, a new **what do you call it...**oh yes! A Bose speaker, a Burberry store discount card and other **things like that.**



Jim: The speaker and the discount card sound **kind of** interesting.

Bob: How much does your phone cost? **About** £200?



Jim: **More or less** the same amount. I got a **bit of** a discount.

Bob: Ok, let's talk to my sister. I think the speakers cost the same amount, but I'm not sure.

Jim: Sure. Let's go.

What Are Vague Expressions?

Vague language is very common, especially in speaking. We often add words and phrases such as about, kind of, sort of, and that kind of thing to make what we say less factual and direct:

For example:

There were **about** twenty people at the meeting.

It's **kind of** cold in here.

We generally use vague language when we don't know the name of something, or to make things sound less factual, or to talk about groups and categories.

We can use vague expressions when we are not sure of the name of something.

E.g.:

A: Val's been in the hospital for tests. Did you know that?

B: No. What's wrong?

A: Well, they're not sure. She's had to have that test, er, ***what do you call it?*** Where you have to go ***into a type of X-ray machine.***

B: A CAT scan?



Making things sound less factual :

Being very factual can sometimes sound too direct in speaking, and so we add vague expressions.

These are called hedges: about, kind of, sort of, -ish (suffix), stuff, things.

E.g.: 1) There's **sort of** something I don't like about her. (more direct: There's something I don't like about her.)

2) It's **kind of** bright in here. (more direct: It's too bright in here.)

3) I can't meet up later. I have too much **stuff** to do. (more direct: I can't meet you, I have things to do.)

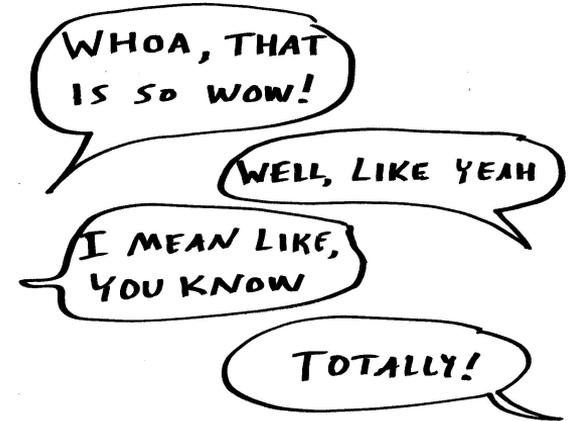


"Remember that thing we thought was a thing?
It's not a thing. But here's the thing, that *other* thing?
Totally a thing!"

We especially use vague expressions before numbers, quantities and times to make them sound less factual. You can use “around” and “about” to give a vague idea of a number. They can be used to give an idea of time or age too.:

Eg :

- 1) I'll see you at **about** 8 tomorrow morning for breakfast. Is that okay?
- 2) We expect to take **in or around** two years to complete the project.
- 3) We're meeting Veronica at **four-ish**.
- 4) We've been living here for **more or less** five years.



Exercise 1

1) Replace the bold word to make the sentence vaguer: "I have **an event** to go to this evening."

a) stuff b) whatsit c) thingy d) thing

2) Complete the missing word: "When you travel with a baby, you have to take a lot of _____ with you."

a) things like that b) stuff c) whatsits d) thing

3) Complete the missing word: "Would you like to go for a coffee or something like _____?"

a) what b) that c) this d) it

4) Complete the missing word: "I need to find _____, the tall guy from the accounts department."

- a) whatsit b) whatshername c) whatshisface d) thingamajig

5) Replace the bold word to make the sentence vaguer: "There are **four** onions in the basket."

- a) lots of b) a couple of c) a few d) many

6) Replace the bold word to make the sentence vaguer: "What does this **object** do?"

- a) stuffy b) thingy c) kind of thing d) whatshisface

7) Complete the missing word: "I have a _____ of friends who like that kind of music."

- a) kind b) several c) couple d) few

8) Replace the bold word to make the sentence vaguer: "She has **43 cats** at home."

- a) lots b) a few c) loads of d) many of

9) Complete the missing words: "I'll be on vacation for a week _____."

- a) or so b) several c) or not d) like that

10) Replace the bold word to make the sentence more vague: "We can meet **at 6.**"

- a) at 6 around b) at 6-ish c) at 6 about d) at 6.00 p.m.

Exercise 2

Write a role play (in 500 to 700 words):

Trade your phone with a friend for any other item you might prefer.

Include approximation (vague language) sentences in your essay.