

When we speak continuously, we use **gap fillers**. These words or short phrases are said when we search for words.

**Here is a list of some 'fillers' we use frequently in English:**

- and...
- but...
- after all
- I mean
- sort of / kind of
- say
- the thing is
- in other words
- by the way
- look here
- first of all /above all
- maybe
- as far, as to
- anyway
- in short
- basically / essentially
- so
- in a word
- in brief
- you know / you see
- What I mean is...
- ... if you see what I mean...
- Well, what I'm trying to say is...
- How can I say this,...
- Now, to get back to what I was saying...
- How shall I put it ?
- ..., now, what's the word... ?
- Anyway, the point is...
- Mind you, I'd also like to say...

**Sometimes people make sounds to keep a conversation going on.**

- ahh
- er
- um

**Hesitation strategies:**

## PRETEND YOU HAVEN'T HEARD

Examples:	Pardon? Sorry? Eh?	Advantages:	Simple – only one word to remember.
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## REPEAT THE QUESTION

Examples:	You mean...what is forty-five divided by nine?	Advantages:	Lots of thinking time.
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## USE DELAYING NOISES

Examples:	Well... Um... Er...	Advantages:	You can use them several times in the same sentence.
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## USE IT DEPENDS

Examples:	It depends. It depends on (the situation). Sorry? You want to know what I think about this? Well...um...it depends, really.	Advantages:	You will sound intelligent. (Stroke your chin at the same time).
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