Elaborate & Clarify

To Prompt

Can you elaborate on . . .?
What do you mean by . . .?
Can you tell me more about . . .?
What makes you think that?
Can you clarify the part about . . .?
Can you be more specific?
How/Why is that important?
I'd love to hear more about . . .
I wonder if . . .
Can you unpack that for me?

To Respond

I think it means that . . .
In other words, . . .
I believe that . . .
An analogy for this might be . . .
It is important because . . .
It's similar to when . . .

Build On or Challenge a Partner's Idea

To Prompt

Can you add to this idea?

Do you agree?

What might be other points of view?

What are other ideas?

How does that connect to the idea . . . ?

I am not sure if this is relevant, but . . .

How can we bring this back to the question of . . . ?

To Respond

I would add that . . . I want to expand on your point about . . . I want to follow up on your idea . . .

To challenge

Then again, I think that . . . Yet I wonder also if . . . What struck me about what you said is . .

Support Ideas with Examples

To Prompt

Can you give an example from the text?
What is a real-world example?
Are there any cases of that?
What is the evidence for that . . .?
Why do you say that?
How do you justify that?
What would illustrate that?
Why is that a good example?

To Respond

For example, . . .
In the text it said that . . .
One case showed that . . .
For instance, . . .
According to . . .
An illustration of this could be . . .
In this situation . . .
To demonstrate, . . .

Paraphrase

To Prompt

I'm not sure that was clear . . . I can't remember all that I said. What do we know so far? What is your take on what I said? I don't know. Did that make sense? What are you hearing?

To Respond

So, you are saying that . . .

Let me see if I understand you . . .

Am I right in hearing you say that . . .?

In a nutshell, you are arguing that . . .

In other words . . .

What I am hearing is . . .

Essentially, you think that . . .

It sounds like you are saying that . . .

Synthesize

To Prompt

What have we discussed so far?
How should we synthesize what we
talked about?
How can we bring this all together?
What can we agree upon?
What main points can we share?
What was our original question?
What key idea can we take away?

To Respond

We can say that...
The main theme/point seems to be ...
As a result of this conversation,
we think that we should ...
How does this sound ...?
What if we ...?
The evidence seems to suggest that...

Synthesize

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To Respond

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The main theme/point seems to be . . .
As a result of this conversation,
we think that we should . . .
How does this sound . . . ?
What if we . . . ?
The evidence seems to suggest that . . .