Delve deeper
(Opening key utterances)

Goal:

The goal of this method is to learn to open another person's thoughts below the surface, to delve deeper into another person's thinking. The objective is to learn to open the key utterances in another person's speech and to inquire more about those utterances by asking open, unbiased questions. The participants strive to ask more and more questions about the key utterances in order for the understanding to deepen and to become more complete. At the same time, the understanding of both parties may increase.

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Instructions

- the participants pair off
- together with your partner, talk about a matter that is important from the perspective of the learning goal; in this context, the theme could be, for example, "thinking behind words"
- first one member of the pair speaks and the other opens the key utterances, or hot words, in their speech, then the roles are reversed
- listen to your partner's speech in a word-for-word manner
- recognise key utterances in your partner's speech
- interrupt your partner and open a key utterance by using an unbiased, open question
- if thinking beneath the surface is disclosed by opening the key utterances, both the speaker and the person opening the key utterances collect it into their so-called "learning bindles" (metaphor for containers for our previous learning that we carry with us to new situations)
- again, listen to your partner's answer in a word-for-word manner
- recognise a new key utterance in this answer, interrupt your partner, open the key utterance, and if thinking beneath the surface is disclosed, collect it once again into your "learning bindle"
- again, listen to your partner's answer in a word-for-word manner, recognise a key utterance, interrupt your partner and open the key utterance by using an open question, after which both collect material into their "learning bindles"
- the roles are reversed, which means that the speaker will now ask questions about thinking beneath the surface
- finally, together with your partner reflect upon the contents of your "learning bindles", that is, how disclosing thinking beneath the surface can benefit learning
- the dialogue lasts for about 15 minutes

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