First paragraph—You are the “teacher”. Read this part to your partner:

If This Project Is Carried Out…

If this project is carried out, several steps will have to be taken. First, scientists must locate the right iceberg. This can be done through satellite observation. A suitable iceberg must be tabular and must not have any cracks or faults. The ice in the cold core must be very compact and thus relatively heavy. The temperature of the core must be between –15 (minus fifteen) and –20 (minus twenty) degrees Centigrade. Second, engineers will have to connect it to the tugboats that will tow it during its 12,000 km (twelve thousand-kilometer) journey. Third, they will have to find a way to keep the iceberg from melting too much before it reaches its destination. One idea is to place strips of plastic over the iceberg to reduce contact with the warmer seawater.

Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat:

If This Project Is Carried Out…

If this project is carried out, several steps will have to be taken. First, scientists must locate the right iceberg. This can be done through satellite observation. A suitable iceberg must be tabular and must not have any cracks or faults. The ice in the cold core must be very compact and thus relatively heavy. The temperature of the core must be between –15 (minus fifteen) and –20 (minus twenty) degrees Centigrade. Second, engineers will have to connect it to the tugboats that will tow it during its 12,000 km (twelve thousand-kilometer) journey. Third, they will have to find a way to keep the iceberg from melting too much before it reaches its destination. One idea is to place strips of plastic over the iceberg to reduce contact with the warmer seawater.

Ask your partner the questions below. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use many of the words in parentheses. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)

1. What are the three steps that have to be taken? (The three steps will be locating the iceberg, connecting it to tugboats and finding a way to keep it from melting.)
2. How will they find a suitable iceberg? (Scientists will find it through satellite observation.)
3. What are the characteristics of the right iceberg? (It must be tabular without any cracks and the ice in the cold core must be compact.)
The Iceberg Project (Part Two) – continued

4. What must the temperature of the core be? (The temperature must be between –15 minus fifteen and –20 minus twenty degrees Centigrade.)

5. How long will the journey be? (It will be a 12,000 km twelve thousand-kilometer journey.)

Exchange roles.

Second paragraph—You are the “teacher”. Read this part to your partner:

The actual towing process will last over six months, and a considerable amount of ice—up to one third—may be lost during this time. Finally, once the iceberg has been transported to the shores of Saudi Arabia, engineers will have to saw it into blocks of ice that can be transported onto the mainland. The trip may be dangerous due to storms and the possibility of an iceberg tipping over and causing the tugboats to sink. However, if this project is carried out successfully, drinking water will no longer be a problem in Saudi Arabia.

Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat:

The actual towing process / will last over six months, / and a considerable amount of ice—up to one third— / may be lost / during this time. / Finally, / once the iceberg has been transported / to the shores of Saudi Arabia, / engineers / will have to saw it into blocks of ice / that can be transported / onto the mainland. / The trip may be dangerous / due to storms / and the possibility / of an iceberg tipping over / and causing the tugboats / to sink. / However, / if this project is carried out successfully, / drinking water / will no longer be a problem / in Saudi Arabia.

Ask your partner the questions below. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use many of the words in parentheses. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)

6. How long will the actual towing process last? (It will last over six months.)

7. How much of the ice may be lost? (Up to one-third or 30% thirty percent may be lost.)

8. When it arrives near the shores of Saudi Arabia, what will engineers have to do? (They will have to saw it into blocks of ice that can be transported onto the mainland)

9. Why may the trip be dangerous? (The iceberg could tip over causing the tugboats to sink.)

10. Why is it different from the ice in the Arctic Sea? (It is fresh water—not frozen seawater.)

11. What will be achieved if this project is carried out successfully? (Drinking water will no longer be a problem in Saudi Arabia.)