The basic clean language questions (established by David Grove)

In these questions, X and Y represent the person's words (or non-verbals)

**Developing Questions**

"(And) what kind of X (is that X)坚守
"(And) is there anything else about X?
"(And) where is X? or (And) whereabouts is X?
"(And) that's X like what?” (this gets you the metaphor that you can then explore)
"(And) is there a relationship between X and Y?
"(And) when X, what happens to Y?"

**Sequence and Source Questions**

"(And) then what happens? or (And) what happens next?"
" (And) what happens just before X?"
"(And) where could X come from?"

**Intention Questions**

"(And) what would X like to have happen?"
"(And) what needs to happen for X?"
"(And) can X (happen)?"

The first two questions: "What kind of X (is that X)坚守 and "Is there anything else about X?坚守 are the most commonly used.

For example someone may say “I need to be more assertive” and you respond “What kind of assertive is more assertive? They may say “less of a doormat” and you say “What kind of doormat? Is there anything else about less of a doormat?”

As a general guide, these two questions account for around 50% of the questions asked in a typical Clean Language session.

You can also simply use these questions when you want to gather more information from someone – it ensures you don’t lead or project any of your own issues onto the client.

**Applications focusing on the clean language questions**

If you had just a few minutes of a leader’s personal attention each week and you wanted the fastest, most effective way to make a real difference just a few of the Clean Language questions help people to focus on what they want to have happen and what steps they need to take to achieve it.

1. What would you like to have happen? (Establishing a desired outcome.)
2. And what needs to happen (for that desired outcome)? (Checking the conditions that need to be in place.)
3. And can (what needs to happen), happen? (Checking that they have confidence that it can be achieved.)
Applications combining clean language and metaphor

Clean Language can help people increase their experience of desirable states of mind (creativity, confidence etc., or the state they regard as optimal for a particular task).

So, if a leader wanted to experience more of their optimal confidence state, a Clean Language facilitator might ask:

"When you're confident at your best, that's like... what?" (Encouraging the client to offer a metaphor for the optimal state.)

The facilitator would then help the person to explore the resulting metaphor, using the Clean Language questions, in any order, but most frequently using the first two questions, 'What kind of X (is that X)? and 'Is there anything else about X?'