

Language Links

HOW TO UNDERSTAND MORE OF WHAT YOU READ



Inside this issue:

How to understand more of what you read 1

Idioms and phrases with numbers 1-3

Culture Corner 2

Here's the Answer 3

Bits and Pieces 4

Here are some suggestions:

1. Know your reading purpose

- If you know your reading purpose - perhaps by looking first at the questions you must answer after reading - you can choose the best reading method.

2. Choose the appropriate reading speed

- One of the following reading methods will be the best choice:

- ♦ **Skimming** - this is reading a text quickly to find out what information it contains. You should skim when, for example, you want to check if a text has the information you need to answer some questions or write a project.

- ♦ **Scanning** - this is reading quickly to find a specific piece of information. You should



scan when, for example, you are looking for the answer to a question which you know is in the text.

3. Get background information

- Find something out about the topic you have to read.

4. Use all the information in the book

- Good textbooks are well-organized, with titles, sub-titles, introductions, summaries or conclusions. Look at all these first before starting to read.

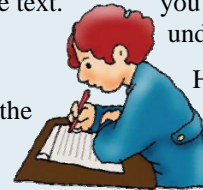
5. Increase your vocabulary

- Of course, reading itself is an excellent way to improve your vocabulary.

6. Learn the important words that organize text

- Cohesion markers (also called *transition words*) are words that connect different parts of the writing

and help writers structure their thoughts. If you learn the important cohesion markers, you will find it easier to understand the text.



Here are some important cohesion markers:

also, therefore, except, unless, however, instead, (al)though, furthermore, moreover, nevertheless, on the other hand, as a result, despite, in conclusion.

7. Choose the right place to read

- Try to find a quiet and comfortable place with good light, and with your dictionaries and other materials nearby.

8. Choose the right time to read - If you have a difficult text to read for homework, it's probably best to do this first. If you leave it until last when you are tired, you will find it even more difficult.

Adapted from: <http://esl.fis.edu/learners/advice/read.htm>

IDIOMS AND PHRASES WITH NUMBERS

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A) Back to square one | เริ่มต้นใหม่ | J) The eleventh hour | วินาทีสุดท้าย |
| B) Once in a while | นานทีปีหน (ประมาณปีละ 2 ครั้ง) | K) In seventh heaven | เหมือนได้ขึ้นสวรรค์ |
| C) Once in a blue moon | แทบจะไม่เกิด | L) On cloud nine | มีความสุข / ตกอยู่ในภวังค์รัก |
| D) Once is enough | ครั้งเดียวก็เกินพอ | M) On second thoughts | คิดทบทวนใหม่ |
| E) Once and for all | เป็นครั้งสุดท้าย | N) Not in a million years | ไม่มีวันเป็นไปได้ |
| F) Third time lucky | จะโชคดีในครั้งที่สาม | O) Catch 22 | สถานการณ์ยุ่งยากที่ไม่มีทางออก |
| G) Second to none | ไม่เป็นรองใคร / ดีที่สุด | P) The 64 million dollar question | ปัญหาโลกแตก |
| H) I'm all sixes and sevens | รู้สึกสับสน | Q) One in a million | หนึ่งในล้าน |
| I) It knocked me for six / Hit for six | ตกตะลึง / ตกใจ | R) Thanks a million | ขอบคุณมากๆ |

By Ian



Culture Corner

TEST YOUR GIFT-GIVING ETIQUETTE

When giving or receiving this holiday season, there's a right -- and wrong -- way to go about it. For example, is it okay to re-gift? Do you know how to handle an unexpected present? Is an e-mail thank-you note acceptable? Take our quiz to test your knowledge of gifting etiquette. Then enter the season of giving with confidence.



Q1. Do you have to give a gift that has the same monetary value as a gift someone gave you?

- A. Yes, you don't want to look cheap.
- B. Yes. In fact, you should spend more.
- C. No. Find the nicest thing you can give in your means.

Correct answer is C. When it comes to gift giving, you should make a list of people you want to give to and figure out how much you can spend on each.

Q2. Someone gives you a gift, but you weren't planning on giving that person one. Do you have to reciprocate?

- A. Yes and make up an excuse for why you don't have her gift yet.
- B. Yes, but don't offer an excuse for not having one at the time.
- C. No. Just say: Thank you.

Correct answer is C. You don't have to reciprocate if you receive an unexpected gift. And certainly don't say: "I'll have something for you tomorrow." That's like trumping their gift. Just show your gratitude for the gift without making excuses for why you're not giving one, too.

Q3 If you are hosting a party, are you required to serve the wine, chocolate or other gifts your guests bring?

- A. No, not if you didn't ask them to bring anything.
- B. Yes, it would be rude not to.

Correct answer is A. A host is not required to use gifts which guests bring to a party. And guests are not required to bring anything, unless asked. So do not feel like you have to take a host or hostess gift to every holiday party you attend.

Q4 Is it okay to re-gift?

- A. Yes, as long as you know the receiver won't find out it's a recycled gift.
- B. Yes, as long as the item is in its original packaging.

Correct answer is A.

"You will get caught," and it's **more embarrassing** than not giving a gift at all.

Source: <http://www.kiplinger.com/quiz/giftgivingetiquette/>

By Ian



Answer Key

- 1. A) 5. M)
- 2. R) 6. K)
- 3. L) 7. H)
- 4. I) 8. G)

IDIOMS AND PHRASES WITH NUMBERS

Match the first page idioms with the correct sentence:

1. I'm afraid it's all wrong, we'll have to go _____.
2. You've done a wonderful job helping me. _____!
3. Since he's been dating Susan he's been _____.
4. When I heard the news that they were going to close the company, _____.
5. I'll have coffee. _____ I'll have orange juice if they have it.
6. Our last holiday to Krabi was wonderful. It was like being _____.
7. I haven't a clue what I'm doing, _____.
8. We believe that our company's products are _____.

Here's the Answer

RESPONDING TO "HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?"

When we greet someone we know, we usually will ask the question "how are you" or "how have you been?"

Below are some useful responses.

Expressing You're Healthy and Fine

- I'm fine.
- Great.
- Couldn't be better.
- (I) can't complain.



Expressing You're Busy

- (I've) been busy.
- I'm snowed under. (*Meaning: I'm very busy*)
- Very busy. There aren't enough hours in the day.



Expressing You Have Been Doing OK (Neutral)

- So-so.
- Same as always.
- Same as usual.
- Plugging along. (*informal*)



Expressing You Have Not Been Doing Well

- Not too great.
- Not so good.
- Not too well.
- Could be better.
- Lousy. (*Meaning: very bad*) (*slang*)



<http://2ndnature-online-eikaiwa.com/Expressions/Module-1/Unit-1.2.htm>

IDIOMS AND PHRASES WITH NUMBERS

Match the first page idioms with the correct sentence:

9. We believe that our company's products are _____.
10. We'll have to work until _____ to meet the deadline.
11. What came first the chicken or the egg? That's _____.
12. My wife has had IVF treatment twice already. Oh well! May be you'll be _____.
13. Have you ever thought about having plastic surgery? _____!
14. Thank you for your kind generosity. You're _____.
15. I don't need to tell you again I've told you _____.
16. Have you ever been to India? Yes, and _____.

By Napassawan



By Ian



Answer Key

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 9. J) | 13. Q) |
| 10. P) | 14. E) |
| 11. F) | 15. D) |
| 12. N) | 16. B) |

Bits And Pieces

AMAZING FACTS ABOUT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

Almost entirely treeless - Haiti.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is Haiti, a country that has been so badly deforested that you can tell where it borders the Dominican Republic by looking at a satellite image.



Most likely to disappear beneath the waves-Maldives.

With all the talk of global warming and rising sea levels, it is the residents of the Maldives that have the greatest reason to fear. With an average height of around 1.8 meters above sea level their nation is the lowest on Earth.

Most of its citizens live abroad – Malta.

After some rough economic times coupled with an increased birth rate, Malta experienced significant emigration. It was so significant that there are now more Maltese living abroad than within the country itself.



Largest country with no farms – Singapore.



Although there are a number of small nations in the world that show no hint of having an agriculture-based economy, (take Vatican City for example) Singapore is the largest of these urban city-states.

Most overweight population – Nauru.

With over 95% of its population being overweight, the small island nation of Nauru is by far the fattest country on Earth. Its obesity epidemic is primarily attributed to the importation of western fast food that coincided with an increased standard of living in the 20th century due to the global popularity of its phosphate exports. It's almost non sequitur...almost.

Produces most of the world's oxygen – Russia.

Siberia is home to approximately 25% of the world's forests that span an area larger than the continental United States, making Russia the largest converter of CO₂ into breathable compounds.



Almost entirely covered in jungle – Suriname.

With 91% of its land covered in jungle Suriname's half-a-million residents live primarily along the coast near the capital. Only 5% of the population (mainly indigenous people) live inland



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