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## **Learning Strategies**

Welcome to "Learning Strategies", the column where you can find helpful methods to enhance your language learning throughout this English Language Programme.

From this week up to the Week 6 of the course, you can follow the learning strategies provided. They are intended to help you master language learning. Please keep reading them!!

Learning another language is not easy, but most people can learn a second language IF they are willing to put in the necessary time. Here are some

practical suggestions for studying effectively, overcoming anxiety, and learning the grammar and skills necessary for success in foreign language classes.

> **1. STUDY EVERY DAY!** A foreign language course is different from any other course you take. Language learning is cumulative: You cannot put it off until the weekend. Study 1 or 2 hours for every class hour if you want an A or B.

#### 2. DISTRIBUTE YOUR **STUDY TIME**

into 15 to 30-minute periods throughout the day. Focus on a different task each time: Vocabulary now, grammar next, etc. Get an overview during the first half hour: Spend 10 minutes reviewing dialogs, 10 minutes learning new vocabulary, 10 minutes learning new grammar...so you'll at least have looked at it all. Approximately 80% of your study time should be spent in recitation or practice, including

practice in the language lab. 3. ATTEND AND **PARTICIPATE IN** 

**EVERY CLASS** — even if you are not well prepared. Class time is your best opportunity to practice. Learn the grammar and vocabulary outside of class in order to make the most of class time. Spend a few minutes "warming up" before each class by speaking or reading the language.

4. MAKE YOURSELF

Date: 17-12-2012

**COMFORTABLE IN** 

THE CLASSROOM. Get to know your classmates, so you will feel you are among friends. Visit your instructor during office hours to get acquainted. Explain your goals and fears about the course to your instructor.

**5. LEARN GRAMMAR** 

IF YOU DON'T

**ALREADY KNOW IT.** Grammar is the skeleton of a language. Review a simplified English grammar text. Compare new grammatical structures in your language to their English equivalents.

6. PRACTICE FOR

**TESTS** by doing

what you will have to do on the test. If the test will require you to write, then study by writing—including spelling and punctuation. If you will be asked to listen, then practice listening.

7. DEVELOP A

**GOOD ATTITUDE.** 

Have a clear, personal reason for taking the class. Set personal goals for what you want to learn. Leave perfectionism at the door; give yourself permission to make mistakes and learn from them.

8. GET HELP IF

YOU NEED IT.

Form study groups among Talk with your teacher. class members. Use tutoring services.

Don't wait!



#### Inside this issue: Leaning Strategies 1 **Culture Coner** 2 Common Mistakes in 2-3 **English Made by Thais** Here's the Answer 3 **Bits and Pieces** 4



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# Cultura Cornar

### Good Manner, Good Business

NOBODY actually wants to cause offence but, as a business becomes ever more international, it is increasingly easy to get it wrong. There may be a single European market but it does not mean that managers behave the same in Greece as they do in Denmark.





In many European countries handshaking is an automatic gesture. In France good manners require that on arriving at a business meeting a manager shakes hands with everyone present. This can be a demanding task and, in a crowded room, may require gymnastic ability if the farthest hand is to be reached.

Handshaking is almost as popular in other countries-including Germany, Belgium and Italy. But Northern Europeans, such as the British and Scandinavians, are not guite so fond of physical demonstrations of friendliness.



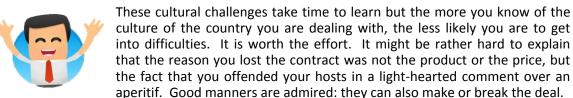


In Europe the most common challenge is not the content of the food, but the way you behave as you eat. In France it is not good manners to raise tricky questions of business over the main course. Business has its place: after the cheese course.

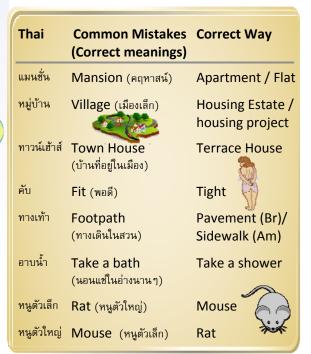
In Germany, as you walk sadly back to your hotel room, you may wonder why your apparently friendly hosts have not invited you out for the evening. Don't worry, it is probably nothing personal. Germans do not entertain business people with quite the same enthusiasm as some of their European counterparts.

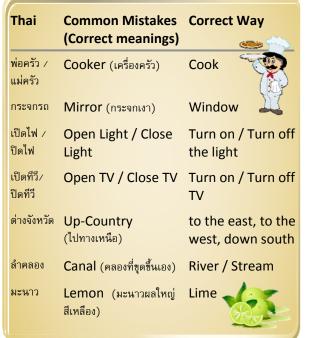






## **Common Mistakes in English Made by Thais**







Adapted from

Jones, Leo and

Alexander, R. 2003. **New International** 

Business English.

Cambridge:

Cambridge University

Press.

Page 3 Date: 17-12-2012

# Here's the Answer



## Do you have difficulty starting a conversation in English?



Sometimes the hardest part is simply starting a conversation. Learn these **expressions for starting a conversation in English** in any situation – formal or informal, at work, school, or other contexts!

Starting a conversation with someone you have just been introduced to:

- Nice to meet you!
- So, what do you do (for a living)? (= what is your job?)
- How long have you been (a journalist)?
- How did you get into it?

Starting a conversation at a conference or work event:

- I don't think we've met –
   I'm Pimjai.
- So, where are you from?
- What did you think of the speaker?
- That was an excellent workshop— I learned a lot. How about you?

Starting a conversation with a friend who you haven't seen in a long time:

Here are some common expressions to start a conversation with someone you see after a long separation:

- Hi Paula! How have you been?
- Long time no see!
- So, what have you been up to lately?
- How's your family?
- Are you still working at ABC Company?

Starting a conversation with a colleague:

In the office, you use slightly more formal English, such as these common expressions:

- Hi, John. How are you doing?
- How's your day going?
- Have you heard the news about \_\_\_\_\_\_?
- (on Friday): Have you got any plans for the weekend?
- (on Monday): How was your weekend?

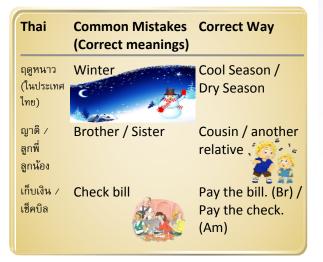
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Adapted from
http://
www.espresso
english.net/
how-to-start-aconversation-inenglish/

## **Common Mistakes in English Made by Thais**

Thai	Common Mistakes (Correct meanings)	Correct Way
ดูหนัง	Watch a cinema (ดูโรงหนัง)	Watch a movie
สายตา	Short eye /	Short-sighted /
สั้น /	Long eye	Long-sighted
สายตายาว		
ส้ม	Orange Orange	Tangerine
สุนัขป่า	Fox	Asian Jackal





## Bits and Pieces

### Christmas Eve

**Christmas Eve (December 24)** is traditionally the day for decorating churches and homes. It marks the beginning of the period formally known as Christmas-tide.

Christmas traditionally started at sunset on 24 December. Ancient ancestors considered this to be Christmas Evening (Christmas Eve for short).

#### What happens on Christmas Eve in Britain?

#### **Father Christmas**

Night time on Christmas Eve is a very exciting time for young children. It is the time when Father Christmas (Santa) comes. The children leave mince pies and brandy for Father Christmas, and a carrot for the reindeer.

#### **Christmas Stockings**

From 1870, children have hung up Christmas stockings at the ends of their beds or along the mantelpiece above the fireplace.

Children hang Christmas stockings or bags up ready for Father Christmas, who will hopefully fill them up with presents, if the children have been good.

#### Who is Santa Claus?

Santa Claus is based on a real person, St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas, or Sinter Klaas in Dutch, was a very shy man and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed

the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking which a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.

When the Dutch introduced Sinter Klaas to the Americans, they called him "Santa Claus".



Adapted from
http://
resources.woodlandsjunior.kent.sch.uk/
customs/xmas/

Language Links is an internal publication of

Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, www.mfa.go.th/dvifa