

Language Links

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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 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. Talk with your teacher. Form study groups among class members. Use tutoring services. **Don't wait!**

By Usana



Culture Corner

Good Manner , Good Business

By
Piyaporn



Adapted from
Jones, Leo and
Alexander, R. 2003.
New International
Business English.
Cambridge:
Cambridge University
Press.

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 quite 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.



These cultural challenges take time to learn but the more you know of the culture of the country you are dealing with, the less likely you are to get into difficulties. It is worth the effort. It might be rather hard to explain that the reason you lost the contract was not the product or the price, but the fact that you offended your hosts in a light-hearted comment over an aperitif. Good manners are admired: they can also make or break the deal.

Common Mistakes in English Made by Thais

Thai	Common Mistakes (Correct meanings)	Correct Way
แมนชั่น	Mansion (คฤหาสน์)	Apartment / Flat
หมู่บ้าน	Village (เมืองเล็ก) 	Housing Estate / housing project
ทาวน์เฮ้าส์	Town House (บ้านที่อยู่ในเมือง)	Terrace House 
คับ	Fit (พอดี)	Tight
ทางเท้า	Footpath (ทางเดินในสวน)	Pavement (Br)/ Sidewalk (Am)
อาบน้ำ	Take a bath (นอนแช่ในอ่างอาบน้ำ)	Take a shower
หนูตัวเล็ก	Rat (หนูตัวใหญ่)	Mouse 
หนูตัวใหญ่	Mouse (หนูตัวเล็ก)	Rat

Thai	Common Mistakes (Correct meanings)	Correct Way
พ่อครัว / แม่ครัว	Cooker (เครื่องครัว)	Cook 
กระจก	Mirror (กระจกเงา)	Window
เปิดไฟ / ปิดไฟ	Open Light / Close Light	Turn on / Turn off the light
เปิดทีวี / ปิดทีวี	Open TV / Close TV	Turn on / Turn off TV
ต่างจังหวัด	Up-Country (ไปทางเหนือ)	to the east, to the west, down south
ลำคลอง	Canal (คลองที่ขุดขึ้นเอง)	River / Stream
มะนาว	Lemon (มะนาวผลใหญ่ สีเหลือง)	Lime 

By IAN



Here's the Answer



Do you have difficulty starting a conversation in English?

YES!



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?




By
Napassawan



Adapted from
[http://
www.espresso
english.net/
how-to-start-a-
conversation-in-
english/](http://www.espressoenglish.net/how-to-start-a-conversation-in-english/)

Common Mistakes in English Made by Thais

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

Thai	Common Mistakes (Correct meanings)	Correct Way
ฤดูหนาว (ในประเทศ ไทย)	Winter 	Cool Season / Dry Season
ญาติ / ลูกพี่ ลูกน้อง	Brother / Sister	Cousin / another relative 
เก็บเงิน / เช็คบิล	Check bill 	Pay the bill. (Br) / Pay the check. (Am)

By **IAN**



Bits and Pieces

Christmas Eve

By
Primravee



Adapted from
<http://re-sources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/xmas/>

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".

