

Language Links

Tips to Speak English Fluently

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By Usana

Adapted from : <http://www.ehow.com>

Conversation

The most important thing an English student can do to improve their speaking ability is to practice. Approaching a native English speaker and attempting to have a conversation with them can be scary for a person who is still in the process of learning the language. You may fear being made fun of or accidentally saying something insulting. It is necessary to overcome this sort of fear if you genuinely want to improve. Look for someone with a friendly, smiling face and simply start by greeting them and asking if they mind helping you practice for a little while.

Listening

Once you have started a conversation with a native speaker, pay attention to their pronunciation. Listen to the order of the words they use when responding. Collect as many useful phrases from each conversation as you can. If you find they are speaking too fast or if you are having difficulty understanding what is being said, ask them to slow down. Many native English speakers will openly admit to speaking at a very rapid rate. No matter what topic the conversation turns to, ask questions. If questions are asked of you, do your best to respond quickly, without worrying about the answer being 'right'.

Thinking

Once you have surrounded yourself with English resources and are using them on a daily basis, you must try to stop thinking in your native tongue. In the early stages of learning English, people think of what they want to say in their first language, translate the thought into English and then speak. This is time consuming, mentally exhausting, and frequently incorrect. With practice, many responses will become automatic, such as saying, "I'm fine, thank you," in response to the common question, "How are you today?"



Idioms and phrases with numbers



Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the list above:

- 1.) Once bitten _____ shy.
- 2.) It's _____ come _____ served.
- 3.) _____'s company _____'s a crowd.
- 4.) It takes _____ to tango.
- 5.) Let's try to kill _____ birds with _____ stone.
- 6.) I'm in _____ minds about what to do this long weekend.
- 7.) You've got a _____-track mind.
- 8.) I put _____ and _____ together.
- 9.) On _____ thoughts.
- 10.) _____ in a lifetime.
- 11.) _____ time lucky.



By Ian



Culture Corner



Tipping Etiquette Tips

Tipping Etiquette Quiz will test your knowledge of tipping, that topic that can be tricky for consumers.

Q1. A good consideration about whether or not to tip is to ...

- A. Put yourself in the other person's shoes
- B. Think about the service
- C. Don't bother tipping less than a dollar

Q2. What is the standard tipping rule for service at restaurants, hair salons, and spas?

- A. 5 - 10 % of total
- B. 15 - 20 % of total
- C. 30 - 40% of total

Q3. How much should you tip at a coffee shop?

- A. No less than 10 cents
- B. No less than 25 cents
- C. No less than one dollar



Q4. How much should you tip for small services, such as drinks at a bar and hotel and airport baghandling?

- A. No tipping necessary
- B. \$1 per item
- C. \$5 per person

Q5. How much tip should you give during the holidays to people who provide you with weekly or monthly services?

- A. No tip or gift necessary
- B. Just a card
- C. One-week's worth of tips



Let's check your answers.

1.A 2.B 3.B 4.B 5.C



By Piyaporn

Source:
http://www.eslvideo.com/esl_video_quiz_beginning

Idioms and phrases with numbers

Answer Key

1.) Once bitten **twice** shy

ผิดเป็นครู



2.) It's **first** come **first** served

มาก่อนได้ก่อน

3.) **Two**'s company **three**'s a crowd

มากคนมากความ

4.) It takes **two** to tango

รับผิดชอบร่วมกัน

5.) Let's try to kill **two** birds with **one** stone



ยิงปืนนัดเดียวได้นกสองตัว

6.) I'm in **two** minds about what to do this long weekend

สองจิตสองใจ

7.) You've got a **one**-track mind

หมกมุ่น

8.) I put **two** and **two** together

ฟังความทั้งสองฝ่าย

9.) On **second** thoughts

คิดทบทวนใหม่

10.) **Once** in a lifetime

โอกาสเดียวในชีวิต

11.) **Third** time lucky

จะโชคดีในครั้งที่สาม



By Ian

Here's the Answer

If you are the host and your guest has arrived at your house, what can you say to welcome them?

Here are some common expressions:

Welcoming a Guest

- I'm so glad to have you here.
- I'm so glad you could come.
- I'm so glad you could visit.
- We're delighted to have you here.
- Delighted to have you here.



Welcoming a Guest Whom You Haven't Seen for a While

- It's so good to see you after all this time.
- Good seeing you again.
- It's a pleasure to see you again. (formal)



Welcoming an Unexpected Guest

- Hey, look who's here!
- Well, look who's here!
- Oh boy! Am I surprised to see you!
- What brings you here?
- What a delightful surprise!
- What a nice surprise!



By Napassawan

http://2ndnature-online-eikaiwa.com/Expressions/Module-3/Unit_3.2.htm

Bits And Pieces

What is it?

1. What is it that you can keep after giving it to someone else?

2. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

3. I have a little house in which I live all alone. It has no doors or windows, and if I want to go out I must break through the wall ?

4. What belongs to you but others use it more than you do?

6. Who are the two brothers who live on opposite sides of the road yet never see each other?

5. What goes into the water black and comes out red?

7. Though it is not an ox, it has horns; though it is not an ass, it has a pack-saddle; and wherever it goes it leaves silver behind. What is it?



By Primravee

Adapted from <http://thinks.com/riddles/a1-riddles.htm>

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|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Your word. | 2. The letter M. | 3. A chicken in an egg. |
| 4. Your name. | 5. A lobster. | 6. Eyes. |
| 7. A snail. | | |



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