

Language Links

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4 Tips for Learning English as a Second Language

When you undertake an English course (and English is not your first language), there are a number of ways to enhance your learning.

Tip 1: Be willing to learn

If you know that you have the will, interest and motivation for an English course, you will find your learning enjoyable, stimulating and all the more advantageous.

Tip 2: Establish a number of goals

As you study and grow in confidence with the English language, it can be extremely helpful to set goals that you actively work towards. With clear goals at the forefront of your mind, you will know what you are working towards and will be better able to measure your progress and achievements.

Tip 3: Be willing to practice

Practicing and applying what you have learnt in formal English lessons and

through course textbooks is important and the best way to advance your ability to understand, speak and otherwise communicate using the English language.

There are a number of effective ways to practice, including:

- Conversing with native English speakers as often as you can
- Doing as much writing as possible; craft emails, letters, notes, articles and any other types of writing.
- Use English when speaking on the telephone as much as possible.

4: Expose yourself to the language

One of the most effective ways to learn any language is to immerse yourself in it and this certainly applies to

the English language. You can:

- Watch television programs and films in which English is spoken,

- Listen to the radio,

- Read as often and as extensively as possible.

When you learn English as a foreign language it is useful to be aware of some techniques and strategies that will speed up your learning and raise your confidence and proficiency with the language.



By Usana

Adapted from: <http://www.academia21.com/blog/2011/10/25/4-tips-learning-english-language/>

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Idioms with days and dates

A) Call it a day (To finish for the day)	วันนี้พอแค่นี้ก่อน
B) To get up at the crack of dawn (To start very early in the morning)	ตื่นแต่ฟ้าสาง
C) Has seen better days (Something is old and not working so well)	ใช้การไม่ได้
D) Out of date (Old / not in use)	ล้าสมัย / หมดยุค
E) It's early days (It's too soon to know or decide something)	ด่วนสรุป / ด่วนตัดสินใจ
F) At the end of the day (Something you say before stating the main point)	โดยสรุปแล้ว
G) Like there's no tomorrow (Too eagerly to do something)	ใจร้อน
H) Since the year dot (Since the beginning)	จากจุดเริ่มต้น



By Ian

Culture Corner



Interesting fact around the world

United Arab Emirates

When holding business meetings in the United Arab Emirates, some foreign businesspeople suggest holding the meeting in the lobby of an international hotel rather than in an office. The advantage of this is that there will be fewer people wandering in and out of the meeting. Also, your counterpart's willingness to come to you demonstrates a true interest. You will also have access to refreshments that may be more to your taste.



Spain

When attending a business dinner, be prepared to stay up late. Most restaurants do not open until after nine o'clock, and often do not get active until around eleven!

New Zealand

This country was very forward thinking. Not only did these people believe in individualism, they created the environment for it to thrive. They also understood their obligation to the people who worked to establish and maintain the society. In 1893, this British Commonwealth gave women the right to vote, and in 1898, established an old-age pension, the first Commonwealth member to do so. If you are walking down the street and see two people *pressing noses*, they are Maoris using their traditional greeting. The Maoris are also highly regarded for their tattooing art.



Japan

The Japanese tend to be rather direct in their questioning of foreigners. You may be asked personal questions such as how much money do you earn or how large is your house?



By Piyaporn

Idioms with days and dates

Exercise 1

Fill in the gaps with a phrase from the first page.

1. Jim's has been spending money _____ .
2. If we're gonna get there by noon we'll have _____ .
3. I've only taken a few lessons. _____ yet to see if my English has improved.
4. This milk smells funny. I think it's _____ .
5. My car _____ . I should really buy a new one.
6. _____ we should never really trust politicians.
7. I've had enough! Let's _____ .
8. Humans have been artistic _____ .

By Ian

Answer

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1) G | 2) B | 3) E | 4) D |
| 5) C | 6) F | 7) A | 8) H |

Here's the Answer

As a guest, what should you say when you want to leave a party or your host's? As a host, what should you say in return?



We will look now at some common expressions for saying goodbye.



Guest - Stating You Have to Leave

- ☞ Well, it's getting late. I'd better get going.
- ☞ I'm afraid I have to go. I have a big day tomorrow. (*a big day = a busy day*)
- ☞ I'd better be off. I have to get up early tomorrow.
- ☞ I'd better get going. It's a long drive home.
- ☞ Well, time to go. (*informal*)
- ☞ Time to hit the road. (*idiom, informal*)



Guest - Thanking Your Host

- ☞ Thanks for a lovely evening. (*formal*)
- ☞ Thanks for a lovely time. (*formal*)
- ☞ Thank you for inviting us.
- ☞ Thank you for having me over.
- ☞ I had a great time. Thanks.
- ☞ I had a lovely evening. Thanks for asking me over.
- ☞ Thanks for the food and drinks!
- ☞ Thanks for the good food and good company.

Host - Saying

- ☞ It's been our pleasure to have you here. (*formal*)
- ☞ It's been a delightful visit. (*formal*)
- ☞ Thank you for coming.
- ☞ Thanks for dropping by.
- ☞ Glad you could come.
- ☞ Come back soon.
- ☞ Let's do this again soon.
- ☞ We have to do this again sometime.
- ☞ We have to do this more often.



http://2ndnature-online-eikaiwa.com/Expressions/Module-3/Unit_3.6.htm

Idioms with days and dates

Exercise 2

- a.) no see b.) for this time of year c.) is another day
d.) time like the present e.) a matter of time f.) on the spur of the moment

Fill in the gaps with a phrase from above.

1. This rain is unusual _____.
2. There's no _____.
3. We just decided to take a trip _____.
4. Long time _____.
5. Tomorrow _____.
6. It's only _____.



Answer

- 1) b 2) d 3) f
4) a 5) c 6) e

Culture Corner

Spring Festival



The most important Chinese holiday is Chinese New Year, which is known in China as Spring Festival. The festival ushers in the lunar New Year and is the West's Christmas and New Year's Eve rolled into one. From sun up to sun down, this is a time when the whole country throws itself into celebrating and eating.



Adapted from <http://www.chinaholidays.com/guide/chinese-culture/chinese-new-year.html>

Legend of Chinese New Year:

No one is quite sure exactly when or where the festival originated. Legend has it that once upon a time, there was a monster called *Nian* that attacked Chinese villages every spring, eating anything that came its way – people, animals, plants and the odd building. One spring, villagers hung red paper on their doors and threw bamboo on a fire when *Nian* arrived. The monster was so startled by the bright colors and loud crackling noise of the burning bamboo that it turned and fled. Today the word “*nian*” is the Chinese word for year. Since that day, Chinese people have hung red paper signs and lanterns outside their homes and enjoy making loud noises on New Year's Eve. Firecrackers replaced bamboo after gunpowder was invented and the main idea today is the louder and bigger, the better.



The holiday is a time for family celebration and nearly every university student or migrant worker heads home.

It'll seem like the whole country is going somewhere at this time, whether on their way home or taking advantage of the long holiday to do some traveling.

On New Year's Eve, once the family has gathered, food becomes a central consideration. Large numbers of delicacies are prepared and fish is often eaten as the Chinese word for fish is a homophone for surplus.

Children particularly enjoy the custom of receiving red envelopes. The envelopes contain gifts of money and are distributed by family elders to young unmarried relatives.

**** The 2013 Spring Festival falls on February 10, 2013. ****



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