

# LANGUAGE LINKS

## The best strategies and techniques for learning English

### Why Learners Can't Speak English?

If you think that English isn't interesting for you, you don't want to learn English. On the other hand, if you think English is interesting for you, you want to learn English.



### Why are learners shy and quiet?

Learners aren't shy and quiet out of class, but they are shy and quiet in class. Why?

- ☞ They are ashamed to speak something in English.
- ☞ They are afraid of their mistake.
- ☞ Class room is a little silent.

### Increase your Vocabulary

- ☞ Choose one vocabulary book.
- ☞ Don't worry you can't understand it the first time.
- ☞ Do not check meaning of words: check how to use them.
- ☞ Begin a second time (review and study).
- ☞ Keep going until you remember all the vocabulary.



### Practice at Low Level

- ☞ Practicing English at a low level is very important, as understanding difficult material takes a lot of time.
- ☞ Learners need English knowledge input, which means a lot of reading and listening.
- ☞ Choose easy material :leaning will be more enjoyable.

### Immerse Yourself in English.

- ☞ Go to your teacher's office and ask her to check your English.
- ☞ Have conversations with your teacher.
- ☞ Be positive.
- ☞ Have a partner join you in learning English.

### Another Way to Immerse Yourself in English

- ☞ Choose one movie or CD.
- ☞ Watch it and listen to it.
- ☞ Write down sentences and phrases.



### How to create an English environment?

Learners speak English in class, but they speak their mother tongue after class or go home. Learners had better try to create an English environment.

#### How?

- ☞ Go to abroad
- ☞ Go to clubs
- ☞ Send foreigners an E-mail
- ☞ Watch movies in subtitle
- ☞ Listen to your foreign music...and so on



### Input

- ☞ Watch a movie
- ☞ Listen to music
- ☞ Read a book

### Output

- ☞ Have conversation
- ☞ Write down your ideas



### Summary

- ☞ Find your appropriate method.
- ☞ Keep practicing English.
- ☞ Balance the study of all four skills.
- ☞ Have enough time for input
- ☞ Have enough time for output
- ☞ Keep using your English.



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## Greeting around the world



### New Zealand

Travellers visiting the Pacific neighbours are sure to come across the traditional Maori welcoming custom known as the hongi.

An ancient tradition, the hongi involves the rubbing or touching of noses when two people meet. It is a symbolic act referred to as the 'ha' or the 'breath of life', which is considered to come directly from the gods.

**Tip:** Keep your eyes open to avoid misjudging the distance or you could be in for a rather awkward moment, not to mention a very sore nose.



### Tibet

It is a courtesy that when Tibetan people meeting and greeting to you, they will put their hands palm to palm in front of chest and stretch out their tongue to show their respect to you. You may put your hands in front of your chest and say "Tashidele" (good luck) to them.

**Tip:** Refrain from greeting Tibetans in the traditional way if you've been chewing liquorice.



### Kenya

Travellers lucky enough to witness the unique customs and traditions of the most well-known tribe in Kenya, the Maasai, will enjoy their vibrant welcoming dance. The Maasai dance is called adamu, the jumping dance, and is performed by the warriors of the tribe.



Traditionally the dance begins by telling a story and concludes with dancers forming a circle and competing to jump the highest, demonstrating to visitors the strength and bravery of the tribe.

**Tip:** Be prepared, often a blend of cow's milk and blood can be offered to visitors as an addition to the welcoming dance.



### Mongolia

When welcoming an unfamiliar guest into their home, a Mongol will present the guest with a hada – a strip of silk or cotton. If you are lucky enough to be presented with a hada, you should grasp it gently in both hands while bowing slightly.

The giving and receiving of hada, as well as the act of bowing to each other, is an outward sign of mutual respect, something that is very important in Mongolian culture.



**Tip:** Depending on what region of Mongolia you visit, the trading of pipes for smoking and the exchange of snuffboxes is also quite common.



**I have difficulty starting a conversation in English. Can you tell me some expressions for starting a conversation in any situation?**



Do you have difficulty speaking 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 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 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 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?



## What is it?

1. What starts with a T, ends with a T, and has "T" in it?

2. What has ~~hands~~ and no head, two arms

4. ~~Fe~~What and I live, give me drink and I die.

3. I go in dry and come out wet, The longer I'm in, the stronger I get. What am I?

6. It's red, blue, purple and green, no one can reach it, not even the queen. What is it?

5. Say my name and I disappear. What am I?

7. What goes up but never comes down?



1. A teapot 2. A shirt (or sweater, jacket etc) 3. Silence 4. Fire 5. A rainbow 6. Your age 7. A teabag

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