

Language Links

By Usana



Conversational Tips



☺ Be well informed.
Read books,
newspapers,
periodicals, etc.
to keep current.

☺ Be prepared.
Be aware of and
conversant about
any "hot" topics in
the news.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Conversational	1
Culture Corner	2
Here's the Answer	3
Bits and Pieces	4

☺ Don't interrupt.
Let whomever
you're talking with
finish their
conversation.

☺ Do listen. Part of
good conversation
is responding, not
just waiting for
your turn to talk.

☺ Do think before you respond.
Give a thoughtful response, one
that shows you were listening.

Culture Corner

Body language around the world

By Piyaporn



Australia

- To beckon a waiter use a quiet hand motion.
- When yawning, cover your mouth and excuse yourself.
- Winking at women is considered rude.

Germany

- Germans may appear reserved and unfriendly until you get to know them better.
- Never put your hands in your pockets when talking with someone.
- "Thumbs up" gesture means "one" or is a sign of appreciation or agreement.
- Making hands into two fists, thumbs tucked inside the other fingers and making pounding motion lightly on a surface expresses "good luck."
- Never use the "okay" sign (index finger and thumb jointed together to make a circle). This is considered a rude gesture.
- Don't point your index finger to your own head. This is an insult.

- The "V" sign (made with index and middle fingers, palm facing inward) is a very vulgar gesture. The "thumbs up" gesture is also considered obscene.

Spain

- Never touch, hug or back slap a Spaniard you do not know well, unless a friendly Spaniard touches you first.
- Generally, Spaniards stand very close when talking.
- Spaniards speak a lot with their hands. Never mimic them.

Netherlands

- The Dutch are reserved and don't touch in public or display anger or extreme exuberance.
- The Dutch value privacy and seldom speak to strangers. It is more likely that they will wait for you to make the first move. Don't be afraid to do so.
- The Dutch expect eye contact while speaking with someone.
- Moving your index finger around your ear means you have a telephone call, not "you're crazy." The crazy sign is to tap the center of your forehead with your index finger. This gesture is very rude.



Adapted from

http://www.ediplomat.com/np/cultural_etiquette/ce_ph.htm

Here's the Answer



Can you tell us the way to express goodbyes and farewells in English?



There are many ways of saying good-bye, just as there are many of saying hello, and it is important to use an expression of the appropriate tone and register.

Simple good-byes (Formal)

- o Good-bye
- o Stay in touch.
- o It was nice meeting you.
- o I hope to see you soon.

Simple good-byes (Informal)

- o Bye.
- o See you.
- o Talk to you later.
- o Catch up with you later.
- o Nice seeing you.

By Napassawan



Leaving a place (Formal)

- o I have to leave here by noon.
- o Is it okay if we leave your home at 9pm?
- o Would you mind if I leave the dinner before it ends?
- o I need to depart for the airport in one hour.

Leaving a place (Informal)

- o I got to go now.
- o I'll be leaving from the office in 20 minutes.
- o How about we jet off to the shops now?
- o I'm afraid I have to head off now.
- o Let's get off work early.

Culture Corner

Let's complete this story!

speed

least

sign

pale

seat

law

laughs

have

cop



There was this car that was driving very slowly down the highway. A State Trooper pulls it over.

"What _____¹ I done wrong, officer?" the driver asks.

"You are going 26mph* on a major highway. There is a _____² against that," the officer says to the driver. "You must go at _____³ 50mph."

"But when I turned on the highway, the _____⁴ said 26!" the driver replies.

"HA HA HA!" The officer _____⁵ out loud. "That is because this is Interstate 26! The 26 isn't the _____⁶ limit!"

The driver leans back in her car _____⁷ and the _____⁸ sees another woman sitting beside her. She looked as _____⁹ as a ghost.



"What happened to her?" the officer asks.

"I don't know, but she has been that way ever since we got off of interstate 160."

* mph = miles per hour

1. have	2. law	3. least	4. sign	5. laughs
6. speed	7. seat	8. cop	9. pale	

By Pimravee



Adapted from <http://thejokes.co.uk/jokes-about-car-drivers.php>

Language Links is an internal publication of
Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, www.mfa.go.th/dvifa