

# LANGUAGE LINKS

ILC 3/2014 , Vol. 3

Date 12 - 09 - 2014

## CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD LANGUAGE LEARNERS

How can we know if we are good language learners? Here are some guidelines or strategies we could use to motivate ourselves to be good language learners.

-  Good language learners find their own way and take charge of their learning. They determine the methods that are best for them as individual learners. They learn from others and experiment with different methods.
-  Good language learners organize their study of the language, and they organize information about the language they study.
-  Good language learners are creative. They understand that language is creative. They experiment with the language and play with grammar, words, and sounds.
-  Good language learners make their own opportunities for practicing the language inside and outside of the classroom.
-  Good language learners learn to live with uncertainty by focusing on the meaning of what they can understand, by not getting flustered, and by continuing to talk or listen without necessarily understanding every word.
-  Good language learners use mnemonics and other memory strategies to recall what they are learning.
-  Good language learners make errors work for them and not against them.
-  Good language learners use linguistic knowledge, including knowledge of their first language, in learning a second language.
-  Good language learners use contextual clues to aid their comprehension of the language. They maximize use of all potential contexts around the language attended to for enhancing comprehension.
-  Good language learners learn to make intelligent guesses.
-  Good language learners learn chunks of language as wholes and formalized routines to help them perform beyond their competence. For example, they may learn idioms, proverbs, or other phrases knowing what the whole phrase means without necessarily understanding each individual part.
-  Good language learners learn certain tricks that keep conversations going.
-  Good language learners learn certain production techniques that also fill in the gaps in their own competence.
-  Good language learners learn different styles of speech or writing to vary their language according to the formality of the situation.

### *Inside this issue:*

***Characteristics of Good Language Learners*** 1

***Culture Corner*** 2

***Here's the Answer*** 3

***Bits and Pieces*** 4

BY TRISUDA

# CULTURE CORNER

1. In Malaysia, which finger(s) should you never use to point at someone?



- A. Thumb
- B. Index
- C. Pinky
- D. Any fingers on the left hand

2. In which country should you never try to jump the queue?

- A. Argentina
- B. Netherlands
- C. Turkey
- D. United Kingdom



3. In which culture should you never mention the name of someone who is already dead?



- A. Aborigine
- B. Arab
- C. Eskimo
- D. Maori

4. In which country is smiling only reserved for close friends, and smiling at strangers or someone you do not know well is considered insincere?

- A. Denmark
- B. Israel
- C. Peru
- D. Russia



5. In which culture is wealth considered a private topic and you should never ask anyone how much money they make or how much their possessions cost?

- A. Asian
- B. Arabic
- C. European
- D. Latin American



6. In which of these ASEAN countries is homosexuality illegal?

- A. Cambodia
- B. Laos
- C. Myanmar
- D. Vietnam



BY PIYAPORN

Answer Key: 1.B 2.D 3.A 4.D 5.C 6.C

# HERE'S THE ANSWER

**Q:** I'm not sure how to use 'wish'. Can you explain?

**A:** The verb "wish" expresses a desire for a situation that doesn't exist now.

## 1. Wish + Part Participle

I wish these socks were a little bit darker.



We use **"wish" + past participle** to express that we want a situation in the present (or future) to be different.

### Examples:

*"I wish I lived in Spain"* – Right now this person does not live in Spain but would like to in the present.

*"They wish it was June"* – Right now it's May and they still have to wait a month to go on holiday in the future.

## 2. Wish + Past Continuous

We use **"wish" + past continuous** to express that we want to be doing a different activity in the present (or the future).

### Examples:

*"I wish I was eating Spanish food in Barcelona"* – Right now this person is in the office, they would like to be in Spain, eating tapas, in the present.

*"They wish they were leaving tomorrow to go on holiday"* – They aren't going on holiday, in the future, but would like to.

## 3. Wish + Past Perfect

We use **"wish" + past perfect** to express regret. This means we want to be able to change a situation in the past.

### Examples:

*"I wish I hadn't eaten so much chocolate"* – This person ate too much chocolate, feels sick and would like to go back to the past and change it.

*"They wish they had studied more for their exam"* – They didn't study and now would like to go back and study more.



## 4. Wish + Would

We use **"wish" + would + infinitive** to express dissatisfaction with the present situation.

### Examples:

*"I wish you would stop making so much noise"* – The person wants the other to stop making noise.

*"He wished his dog would behave"* – The dog is barking and he wants it to stop.

We can also use **"wish" to express "want"** in a formal situation, for example, we can say "I wish to talk to the headmaster".

We do this by saying **"wish" + infinitive**.

BY NAPASSAWAN

# BITS AND PIECES

## IS SEA SALT HEALTHIER THAN REGULAR SALT?

Sea salt come in a variety of colors and textures, but it's not healthier than regular table salt.

Whether it's black, pink, gray or red, **sea salt** certainly stands out, in flavor, color and texture. The irregularly shaped rocks are gleaned from the sea as water evaporates. The result is a coarse, unprocessed salt laced with trace levels of minerals, such as calcium, magnesium, potassium.



disease.

But what about the trace amounts of minerals found in sea salt? They don't really give you a nutritional advantage because they are easily found in other common foods, like nuts, legumes, dairy and some fruits and vegetables, like oranges and leafy greens [source: Kannall].

And the iodine added to table salt to help prevent goiters caused by iodine deficiency?



It also is found in everything from fish and dairy products to soy sauce and eggs [sources: American Heart Association, American Thyroid Association].



Table salt, on the other hand, is harvested from underground salt deposits and then processed to arrive at its fine and uniform texture. Because all minerals have been stripped away and additives have been included to prevent clumping, this is the less healthful choice, right?

Turns out, sea salt isn't any better for you than table salt, and both should be used in moderation.

Sea salt and table salt have the same sodium content, which is about 575 milligrams of sodium per quarter teaspoon (the American Heart Association recommends ingesting no more than 1,500 milligrams a day).

Both types of salt put you equally at risk for developing high blood pressure, which in turn raises the incidence of heart



*Adapted from <http://health.howstuffworks.com/wellness/food-nutrition/facts/10-false-nutrition-facts-everyone-knows.htm#page=5>*

BY PIMRAVEE

Language Links is an internal publication of  
Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [www.mfa.go.th/dvifa](http://www.mfa.go.th/dvifa)