

# Language Links

## Culture Corner

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## Dining Etiquette

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Let's check how well mannered you are at the dining table when travelling abroad. Put yourself to this test with the following questions on dining manners and protocol from around the world.



- In Belgium how many times should you raise your glass when toasting?
  - Once
  - Twice
  - Three times



- In Belarus what is the most popular drink at business and social gatherings?
  - Wine
  - Vodka
  - Beer



- In South Korea it is considered polite to:
  - Finish all the food on your plate
  - Refuse offers of more food at least 3 times
  - Pay for the meal even if you are the guest



- In India one should never offer someone food from their plate?
  - True
  - False
- In the Middle East which of these should you avoid when eating?
  - Drinking anything
  - Eating with a full mouth
  - Using your left hand
- At a dinner in Hong Kong where will the guest of honor be seated?
  - To the left of the host
  - To the right of the host
  - Opposite the host

Ans. 1. B 2. B 3. B  
4. A 5. C 6. C



# Learning Strategies

## 5 Strategies to Learn Language from Movies

1. **Foreign Language Subtitles.** You can use subtitles in two different ways when you're watching a movie to build your language skills. The first way is to have the subtitles turned on in the language you're trying to learn. This is a useful strategy for a few different reasons. First it allows you to match spoken language with written language and it enables you to pick out certain words that you are having trouble understanding and learn what they mean. It can also help to improve correctly pronouncing certain words that you might regularly drop ending sounds. Both of these methods work to help you develop your listening skills. Additionally, having subtitles on encourages you to speed up your reading skills. When you start out, you probably won't be able to read the subtitles as quickly as they are shown on the screen, but that's okay. Keep at it and you'll soon be able to read along with them. Don't be afraid to watch the same movie many times!

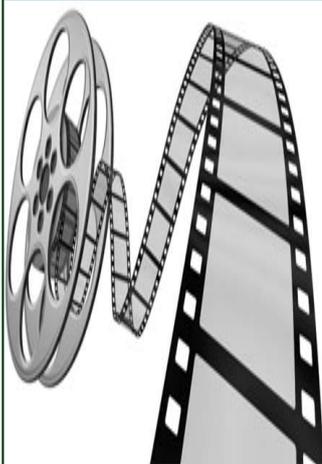


2. **Native Language Subtitles.** You can also turn on the subtitles to your native language, for example English subtitles in an Anime film if you're trying to learn Japanese. Beginning learners find this is useful to help keep up with the plot line. Again, you'll slowly be able to pick up words in the language you're trying to learn the more you watch, especially by matching them to the subtitle translations. Actually, you might get more out of native language subtitles if you are more advanced. For example, imagine for a moment you're watching most of a scene and understanding what's going on, except for the occasional verb or adjective. Native language subtitles are useful to pick out these unusual vocabulary items that were previously unfamiliar to you.

3. **Dubbed movies.** Voiceover translations, or dubbed movies, can be a good choice for beginning learners. Choose movies you already know and love. If you can quote every line in the Star Wars saga, then find them in the language you want to learn. The reason for this is that at the beginning levels, you can focus on picking out your favorite lines and translating yourself as you watch.

4. **Action films.** Action films are also great films to watch in another language when you're just starting out. You can enjoy the plotline and follow along without getting lost in too much dialogue. You'll also learn great survival vocabulary like: "Help!" "Police!" or "Watch out!"

5. **Genre films.** You can find a movie about any topic these days, whether it's a historical drama or contemporary commentary on social issues. If you're enrolled in a formal language course or are studying vocabulary for specific purpose (e.g., business, medical terminology, etc.), focus on movies that use the same vocabulary you're currently trying to develop. This helps put the vocabulary in context and serves to reinforce your efforts.



By Traisuda

# Here's the Answer

## Answers to Common English Questions

Have you ever been asked any of the questions below? Did you have difficulty finding the right words or phrases to answer these questions? If you did, here are some possible answers.



**Q:** Where/How did you learn English?

**A:** I am doing an intensive English course.  
I've been studying on my own.  
I picked it up from movies and songs.  
*(In this context, "picked it up" means "learned it casually.")*

**Q:** What have you been up to lately? *(This question means "What have you been doing recently?")*

**A:** I've been working a lot.  
Mostly studying.  
I've been taking it easy. *(This means "relaxing, not doing anything intense or stressful".)*  
Planning my summer vacation.  
Nothing much. *(This means "to not have done anything special or worth mentioning".)*

**Q:** How's it going? *(Similar to "How are you"?)*

**A:** Great! Couldn't be better! *(This means that everything is excellent.)*  
Fine. How are things with you?  
Not bad. *(This means that things are OK, and OK means not good not bad.)*  
Do you really wanna know? *(Normally when people ask "how's it going?" they expect a positive response like "fine" or "good." If you say "Do you really wanna know?", it means that things are going badly, but you are not sure if the other person wants to listen to your problems or not.)*

**Q:** Can you give me a hand? *(This means "can you help me?" – often with a physical task like moving furniture or carrying a box.)*

**A:** Of course!  
I'd be glad to.  
Will it take long?  
Sure – just a sec. *(This means "just a second" – you need the other person to wait a moment before you can help them.)*  
Sorry – I'm a bit busy at the moment.

By  
Napassawan

# Bits and Pieces

## Good Friday

Many Christians around the world observe Good Friday on the Friday before Easter Sunday and the day after Maundy Thursday. Good Friday commemorates Jesus Christ's passion, crucifixion and death, as told in the Christian bible.

### What Do People Do?

Many Christians from around the world celebrate the anniversary of Jesus Christ's crucifixion and death on the Friday before Easter Sunday. This day is an observance that involves people fasting and praying. Church services are often held in the afternoon, usually around noon or midday to 3pm, to remember the hours when Jesus hung on the cross. Numerous churches also observe the day by re-enacting the procession of the crucifixion as in the ritual of the Stations of the Cross, which depicts the final hours of Jesus' life. Processions are held in countries such as Columbia, Italy, Malta, the Philippines, and Spain.

**Good Friday Calendar:**  
 2016 – March 25  
 2017 – April 14  
 2018 – March 30  
 2019 – April 19



Kites that are often handmade are flown in Bermuda on Good Friday to symbolize the cross that Jesus died on, as well as his ascension into heaven. This custom dates back to the 19th century. Churches in countries such as Belgium and Mexico, are draped in black on Good Friday in memory of Jesus' suffering on the cross. The day is solemn and a general air of sadness is felt in many towns and villages. Many Christians in Poland fast on dry bread and roasted potatoes. Egg decorating is also part of the Easter preparations in Poland, USA and other countries.

### Symbols

Good Friday is celebrated in memory of Christ's Passion, crucifixion and death. The most important Good Friday symbol is the crucifix, or cross, which represents the way in which Jesus died. Some crosses bear a figure of Christ upon it. Other symbols of Good Friday include black cloth used to cover the cross, paintings and statues in churches and in some homes to signify mourning. In addition, some people deliberately create a bare appearance in their homes and churches by removing all flowers and shiny objects.

<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/good-friday>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Good-Friday.html>

