

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 in out of class, but they are shy and quiet in class. Why?

- ☞ They are ashamed to speech something in English.
- ☞ They are afraid of their mistake.
- ☞ Classroom is a little silent.

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.



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.



Input

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

Output

- ☞ Have conversations.
- ☞ Write down your ideas.

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.

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.



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.



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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 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 unfamiliar guests 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.



How to use “wish”



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

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.

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**.



What is it?

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

2. What has a neck and no head, two arms

4. Feed me 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?



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|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. A teapot | 2. A shirt (or sweater, jacket etc) | 3. tea bag | 4. Fire | 5. Silence | 7. Your age | 6. A rainbow |
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Adapted from <http://dan.hersam.com/riddles.html>

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