



LANGUAGE LINKS

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What's happening this week?

This Friday, we're going to take all of you out of Bangkok and head to the ancient city of Ayutthaya, which was the Thai capital for 417 years. The purpose of this one-day trip is to give you an opportunity to practise using English in a real situation by listening to a briefing and asking questions in English. More importantly, you'll gain some ideas on how to make a presentation.

Our first destination will be the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre, a national research institute devoted to the study of Ayutthaya, especially the period during which it was the capital of Thailand. This centre also supports an information service and a library containing historical materials about Ayutthaya.



Next, we will move on to Wat Phra Sri Sanpetch, a royal temple that was built as part of the Grand Royal Palace during the reign of King U-Thong, the founder of Ayutthaya.



After lunch, we'll visit Wat Na Phra Mane, the only major temple not destroyed by invaders. The Buddha image in this temple is praised as being the most beautifully attired one in Thailand.

Our last destination will be Wat Mahathart, where we'll see the famous ruin of the head of a Buddha statue, completely covered by the root of a big Bhothi tree.

I hope that you'll gain benefits from this excursion, and your English knowledge will be broadened.

Tentative Itinerary

- 07.30 Leave the Institute of Foreign Affairs
- 10.00 Arrive at the Ayutthaya Historical Study Centre
- 11.00 Arrive at Wat Phra Sri Sanpetch
- 12.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Arrive at Wat Na Phra Mane
- 15.00 Arrive at Wat Mahathart
- 16.00 Depart for Bangkok

NOTE: Casual dress is recommended; a hat or an umbrella will also be useful.

Usana

LEARNING STRATEGIES

READING STRATEGIES

When reading anything in another language, such as instructions for homework exercises, captions under pictures, magazine or newspaper articles, stories, anything, you should follow these steps:



DO

☺ Skim: read for the gist, not for details. Guess at meanings, based on the context, and try to get a general idea. Take into account any pictures, titles, subtitles and format.

☺ Think about what you already know about the topic.

☺ What you are reading will help you to understand more.

☺ Skip words you don't understand.

☺ Predict and revise your predictions about what is going to occur in the reading.

☺ Read the passage over several times, revising your predictions. Each time you read it you will understand more.

DON'T

☹ Don't look up lots of words in the dictionary. You don't have to know everything, and you won't remember those words and all that looking up will interrupt your train of thought. When you read in English, you usually don't look up words you don't understand. You use the context to get the general idea.

☹ Don't translate into English. You'll understand much more if you stay in the target language, and you will be progressing toward being able to read easily. But if you translate many words, or whole lines into English, you will only be teaching yourself to translate, and to understand the English you wrote.

Adapted from <http://www.longwood.edu/modernlanguages/Strategies.htm>

Usana

Here's the Answer...

Permission



What can we say to ask for and give permission?



You can look at the phrases in the boxes below.

Can I
May I
Could I
Might I

(possibly)...

Yes, (of course) you can/may.

I wonder if I could ...
I wonder if I might ...

No, (I'm afraid) you can't/may not.

- **Can** is the least formal. **May** and **could** are more formal and **might** is extremely formal.
- The addition of **possibly** or the use of the form **I wonder if I ...** make the request more polite.

Examples

Can I ask a question? Yes, you can. Go ahead.

Could I go early today? No, I'm afraid no
There's a lot of work to do.



May I have some more coffee? Yes, of course.

I wonder if I could use the fax machine. No, I'm afraid you can't.
I'm in the middle of sending a document.



O'Connell, S. 2005. *First Certificate*. Harlow: England. (adapted)

Napassawan

Culture Corner

Superstitions

Many cultures have interesting beliefs about good and bad luck.

Japan



⇒ If children don't cover their stomachs during a storm, the thunder god will sneak up and steal their belly buttons.

The real meaning!

During a storm, the temperature goes down. It can get cool very fast. Hence, they should cover themselves to keep warm.

Brazil

⇒ Many years ago in Brazil, land owners told fruit pickers not to eat mangoes. If they did, they would get sick.



The real meaning!

They said this so the fruit pickers would not eat the fruit they picked.

Mexico

⇒ In Mexico, when scorpions come down from the mountain, the mountain god is angry and soon it will rain.



The real meaning!

Scorpions can feel the wind before people can. They can feel the wind early, and the wind usually starts to blow a couple of weeks before the rainy season.



Britain

⇒ An old British superstition is: "Never lend milk to anyone. The person might be a witch who will put a magic spell on your cow. Then the cow would stop giving milk."



The real meaning!

Don't lend anything to anyone. This is because a long time ago, most people were farmers. They were poor and really could not lend things. They did not have very much.

Helsen, M. et. al. 1997. *Active Listening: Expanding Understanding Through Content*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No. 4

Add a letter

Add one letter to each of the following words (in any place) to form a new word.

A clue is given to help you. Look at the example first.

- | | | | |
|----|--------|------------|---|
| 1 | NOW | ...SNOW... | seen in winter |
| 2 | PACE | ..... | what most people would like to see |
| 3 | PURE | ..... | a container |
| 4 | CRATES | ..... | lots of these on the moon |
| 5 | HOST | ..... | fact or fiction? |
| 6 | PINT | ..... | in England it is considered rude to do this |
| 7 | EAR | ..... | not cheap |
| 8 | ROOF | ..... | you need this to convict someone of a crime |
| 9 | PEAR | ..... | a hunting weapon |
| 10 | RAY | ..... | used for carrying things |
| 11 | SWAM | ..... | a collective term for bees |
| 12 | SEW | ..... | you eat it |
| 13 | CRAM | ..... | made from milk |
| 14 | COW | ..... | a bird |
| 15 | SOON | ..... | a piece of cutlery |
| 16 | GRAVE | ..... | small stones |
| 17 | CARS | ..... | a popular pastime |
| 18 | RAT | ..... | a sort of boat |
| 19 | LATE | ..... | a piece of crockery |
| 20 | SAG | ..... | a difficulty, problem or drawback |
| 21 | GEMS | ..... | they cause disease |
| 22 | LANE | ..... | a tool used by a carpenter |
| 23 | BED | ..... | to curve something |
| 24 | LANCE | ..... | to look quickly |
| 25 | LAST | ..... | smallest in size, amount, etc. |



Answers no.3

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 field marshal | 13 chairman |
| 2 secretary-general | 14 vice-chancellor |
| 3 producer | 15 umpire |
| 4 foreman | 16 prime minister |
| 5 manager | 17 chief/chieftain |
| 6 headmaster/
headmistress | 18 managing director |
| 7 abbot | 19 Mother Superior |
| 8 captain | 20 leader |
| 9 curator | 21 warden |
| 10 governor | 22 choirmaster |
| 11 butler | 23 president |
| 12 principal | 24 editor |
| | 25 matron |

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