



LANGUAGE LINKS

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What's happening this week?



This Friday will be different from the other weeks we have got together, as the U Talk Contest - one of the main language-based activities of the ILC course - will take place. There will be speakers from every ILC class, and prizes will be awarded to the three contestants who deliver the best speeches on the morning. The top prize is something special: a 45-hour English course at IDP English Language Centre in Silom Road.

A panel of judges will decide the winners, using the following criteria:

1. How well was the speech **structured**? The best speeches are those that have been well written beforehand. There should be a strong opening to the speech, together with a good conclusion at the end. Ideas should be well organized, and each idea should "flow" smoothly to the next. Irrelevant points should not be included, and there should be no unnecessary repetition of ideas.
2. How good was the speaker's **presentation**? It is important that the contestants practise their speeches many times before Friday's event. They should not read their speech directly from a script, but, instead, use "cue cards" to help them remember the main points.
3. How clear and accurate was the speaker's **pronunciation**? When writing a speech, it is a good idea to use words that you are familiar with and know how to pronounce correctly.
4. Were there any serious **grammatical** mistakes? Incorrect use of grammar can often make the meaning of a sentence unclear.
5. How **interesting and original** was the speech? Judges and audiences alike prefer speeches that both inform and entertain!

We wish all the speakers good luck. See you at Narathip Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 8.45. Please dress appropriately.



Usana

Culture Corner



Business Culture



The following passages describe business culture in different countries. As you read, think about which culture is most similar to your own and which is most similar to the American or British way of doing business.



For many Mexicans, money is not nearly as important as **relationships**.



Since Mexicans can choose whom they want to do business with these days, they will almost always pick the person they genuinely like over the person they are merely acquainted with, even if the acquaintance has a better deal.



General comments will carry you a long way in dealing with Russians. First, be courteous. Simple courtesy goes a long way, and the Russians remember little things. Second, be prepared for a slow pace - many Russians, especially the older generation, do not like to be rushed. Third, respect the Russians' need for initial formality.



After an hour or two, the ice will be broken and Russians will become warmer; but do not force it.

Wallwork, A. 1999. *Business Options*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Piyaporn

Here's the Answer...

Using the Definite Article









Q

I always make mistakes using "the". Can you explain when to use it?



A

There are grammatical rules for the use of "the". Let's have a look at the following.

NO ARTICLE	DEFINITE ARTICLE
<p>Meals</p>  <p>We had breakfast at 8 o'clock</p>	<p>Meals</p>  <p><u>The</u> breakfast on the train was awful.</p>
<p>Times of day</p>  <p>We left at midnight/night/sunrise/midday/noon/lunchtime.</p>	<p>Times of day</p>  <p><u>In</u> the morning <u>In</u> the afternoon <u>In</u> the evening</p>
<p>Methods of travel</p> <p>For example: by air/sea/boat/train/bus/car/bicycle</p>	<p>Methods of travel</p> <p>We came by <u>the</u> early train/<u>the</u> 40 bus/<u>the</u> express coach.</p>
<p>Cities: New York, Hong Kong</p> <p>Mountains: Mount Everest Ben Nevis</p>  <p>Countries: France, Argentina</p> <p>Streets, squares, circuses: Oxford Street Leicester Square Piccadilly Circus</p> 	<p>Oceans, seas, waterways, and rivers: The Pacific Ocean The South China Sea The Suez Canal The Mississippi</p>  <p>Mountain ranges The Alps The Himalayas</p>  <p>Plural countries The United States The Philippines</p> <p>Road the London road</p>

Source: O'Connell, S. 2005. *First Certificate*. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Input – Getting English Into Your Head



What is *input* and why do you need it? *Input* is a short word for “English sentences that you read or listen to”. When you read and listen to English sentences, parts of the sentences stay in your memory, and this lets you build similar sentences yourself. Input - not speaking, writing or grammar tests - is what you need to use English grammar and vocabulary like a native speaker.

You shouldn't learn English by grammar rules because grammar rules are difficult to memorize, and because building sentences by using grammar rules is very slow. You can't use English fluently if you have to think about grammar rules.

Your input should be fun. Thrilling, enjoyable and/or funny content is the key to your progress.

Reading is easier than listening. You can get input in only two ways: reading and listening. Reading is easier than listening because you can see the spelling of all the words, and you can always stop to think and look things up in a dictionary. With listening, this is not always possible.

You can get English input in many different ways:

- **Reading in English** gives you easy input (easier than listening). When reading, pay attention to new words, phrases and grammar patterns.
- **Watching movies in English** gives you spoken English input and helps you learn informal English vocabulary. You will often have problems understanding movies; we present a few techniques to help you with that.
- **Adventure games** are computer games where you control a character who talks to other characters. They give you lots of spoken English input and are fun to play.



Adapted from <http://www.antimoon.com>

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No.8 Newspaper misprints

In each of the following extracts from a newspaper there is a misprint which completely changes the meaning of the sentence. Write down the word which is wrong, and also write down which word should have been used instead.

	Misprint	Correct word
1 A thief went into the changing room at Hastings United football club. Honey was taken from the pockets of five players.	<i>Money</i>	<i>Honey</i>
2 The final practice for the children's concert will be held on Saturday afternoon between 2.00 and 2.30.	-----	-----
3 Woman wanted to share fat with another.	-----	-----
4 The man was holding a gin as he entered the bank.	-----	-----
5 As well as the usual prizes, over 50 swimming certificates were presented. The school choir sank during the evening.	-----	-----
6 Mr Davies who was on the boat deck, ran to the rails and threw a lifeboat to the drowning man.	-----	-----
7 Detectives kept a witch on the house for two weeks.	-----	-----
8 Lady required for 12 hours per week to clean small officers at Station Road, Oxford.	-----	-----
9 Arsenal are hoping their new centre forward will be fat enough to play on Saturday against Manchester United.	-----	-----
10 All the bridesmaids wore red noses.	-----	-----



Answer no.7

Cabbage means have
Banana means don't (do not)
Carrot means that
Strawberry means it
Egg means think

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