

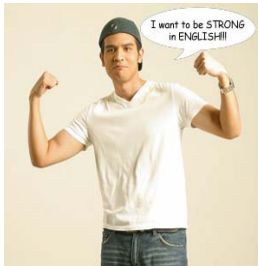


# LANGUAGE LINKS

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## What's happening this week?



**I**f you would like to improve your English skills, give yourself a chance to be exposed to English as much as you can. Listening to our guest speaker, Christopher Wright, this Friday will be one such opportunity. The title of his presentation is "Why Can't Thais Speak English?".

Since graduating, Christopher Wright has been an English lecturer and teacher at several private universities in Bangkok. He has also worked at numerous international companies conducting a variety of training programs such as "Effective English Business Presentations", "Team Building in International Companies", "Cross Cultural Management for International Companies", and "Effective Business English Communication for Thais".

Another role that he now plays is as the organizer and MC of *Nation Junior's* (The Nation newspaper) Road Show and *Nation Junior's* Spelling Bee. Not only is he a teacher, trainer and MC, he is also an author. He has just written two "edutainment" books entitled *Farang Kao Jai, Kon Thai Get, Parts 1 and 2*. These books are about the problems Thai people have learning and speaking English, and basically answer a question that both Thais and foreigners often ask: "After all their years of learning it at school and university, why can't Thais speak English?"



The guest speaker activity has been arranged in order to enhance your listening skills, and to give you a chance to get familiar with English words from different fields. This "outside the classroom learning" will take place at Narathip Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Ayutthaya Road.

### NOTE:

- Please dress appropriately and wear your nametag.
- See you at Narathip Auditorium at 8.45.

**Usana**

# Culture Corner



## What Are Britain's Social Customs?

Time  = 

British people place considerable value on punctuality. If you agree to meet friends at three o'clock, you can bet that they'll be there just after three. Since Britons are so time conscious, the pace of life may seem very rushed. In Britain, people make great effort to arrive on time. It is often considered impolite to arrive even a few minutes late. If you are unable to keep an appointment, it is expected that you call the person you are meeting. Some general tips follow.



### You should arrive:



\* At the exact time specified for dinner, lunch, or appointments with professors, doctors and other professionals.



\* Any time during the hours specified for teas, receptions and cocktail parties.



\* A few minutes early for public meetings, plays, concerts, movies, sporting events, classes, church services and weddings.



If you are invited to someone's house for dinner at half past seven, they will not expect you to be there on the dot. It is considered good manners to arrive ten to fifteen minutes "late". An invitation might state "7.30 for 8", in which case you should arrive no later than 7.50. However, if an invitation says "sharp", you must arrive on time.



Source: Woodlands Junior School [Terms&Conditions](#)  
Woodlands Junior School, Hunt Road Tonbridge Kent.  
TN10 4BB UK

Piyaporn

# Here's the Answer...

## Gonna, Gotta, Wanna ...

**Q** I've seen words like "gonna" and "wanna" and wonder what they mean.

**A** Words like "gonna" and "wanna" are informal contractions. Informal contractions are short forms of other words that people use when speaking fast and informally. These contractions are not exactly slang, but they are a little like slang. Here are the **seven most common informal contractions** with example sentences:

1. Gimme = give me

*Gimme* your money.

Can you *gimme* a hand?



2. Gonna = going to

Nothing's *gonna* change my love for you.

I'm not *gonna* tell you.



3. Gotta = (have) got to

I've *gotta* go now.

We've *gotta* do that.

4. Innit = isn't it

That's smart, *innit*?



5. Kinda = kind of

She's *kinda* cute.

Are you *kinda* mad at me?



6. Lemme = let me

He didn't *lemme* see it.

7. Wanna = want to/ want a

Do you *wanna* watch TV? (want to)

I *wanna* coffee. (want a)



source: <http://www.englishclub.com>

Napassawan

# LEARNING STRATEGIES

## *Tips for Learning English*

- **Don't be afraid** – Never be afraid to try speaking to other people even if you don't know everything.
- **Surround Yourself** – Surround yourself with English. Read it, listen to it, watch it and speak it with others.
- **Listen to native speakers** – Pay careful attention to native speakers using English. Observe the way they pronounce the words and how they use them.
- **Pronunciation is a key** – Imitate native English sounds as closely as you can. The more closely you pronounce words like native speakers, the better you will be understood.
- **Use good resources** – Use dictionaries, workbooks, software and any other resource that will allow you to practise and expand your language.
- **Use what you know** – Even if you know relatively little English, you should use what you know.
- **Don't get stuck** – If you don't know a certain word, work your way around it. Use different words and actions to explain it, but don't give up.
- **Have fun!** – Learning a new language is fun and exciting. Recognize your progress and use your language for ultimate enjoyment.

**These tips will help you on your way to English fluency. Enjoy your study and remember to use the language you have learned in as many circumstances as possible. Full immersion in the language is the fastest way to learn and learn well.**

***Adapted from <http://esl-software-review.toptenreviews.com/tips-for-learning-english.html>***

# ***FUN WITH ENGLISH***

## No.2 Confusing Words

*Choose the correct word in each of the following sentences.*

1. You haven't (lent/borrowed) my rubber, have you, Paul?
2. He sat down (besides/beside) an old man with a white beard who looked and smelt as though he hadn't washed for weeks.
3. See that large (building/house) over there? Well, that's where I work. I've got an office on the sixth floor.
4. Was it (funny/fun) at the party on Friday?
5. The (nature/countryside) around this town is very flat and uninspiring.
6. The injured man was (laying/lying) on the road close to the wreckage of his car.
7. Who (taught/learnt) you to play the guitar, Fred?
8. Those of you who wish to come to the zoo this afternoon, please (raise/rise) your hands.
9. When I heard that I'd been given the job I felt very (lucky/happy) indeed.
10. I usually (go up/get up) at 7.30 every morning.
11. Why don't you (take/bring) your girlfriend with you next time? We'd love to meet her.
12. Is it all right if I (go with/follow) you to the concert on Friday, Pam?
13. Sussex is my favourite (landscape/county) in England.
14. I didn't have time to (do/make) the beds this morning.
15. Amsterdam is a city full of (channels/canals).

### Answers no.1

1. One (the sun)
2. White
3. Pig-headed
4. The sixtieth
5. Beauty, excellence and bravery
6. Dreams
7. 50
8. 42
9. Hearts
10. The velocity of light

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