



# LANGUAGE LINKS

Vol.1 No.3 January 15, 2007

Language Links is an internal publication of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 962 Krung Kasem Road, Bangkok 10100. <http://www.mfa.go.th>

## What's happening this week?



**T**his week we'll visit the Bank of Thailand Museum, which is housed in Bangkhunprom Palace. The palace has now become a part of the Bank of Thailand's premises. The program will run from 9.00 to 12.00.

One of the museum's objectives is to preserve the Thai currency, which is an important cultural heritage showing the civilization of the Thai kingdoms. The museum serves to stimulate the research and study of the evolution of the Thai currency. The exhibitions cover prehistoric mediums of exchange; ancient currencies from the Funun, Dvaravati and Sri Vijaya Kingdoms; Pot Duong; and Thai coins and banknotes, including money from the North (Lanna money) and the Northeast (Lanchane money). In addition, we'll see an exhibition on the history of the Bank of Thailand, its roles and its responsibilities.

### NOTE:

- See you at the Bank of Thailand Museum at 8.45
- Please dress appropriately

## Learning Strategies

### How to Read English Texts

#### Reading for Content

Normally, when reading a text, people use a strategy that I call "reading for content". The goal of this strategy is to get the main idea of the text as quickly as possible and with as little effort as possible. To accomplish this goal, your brain will try to read as few words as possible, and spend only a fraction of a second on each word.



Here are some characteristics of "reading for content":

- ♦ Not seeing "grammar words" like *a, the, in, of, through, that*. The eye only stops at content words (main nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs).
- ♦ Not seeing word forms: Was it *look* or *looked*? *Has looked* or *had looked*?
- ♦ Not noticing the exact spelling. It is well known that the brain recognizes whole words — it does not analyze them letter by letter. Native speakers see the word *piece* all the time, but many of them still misspell it as *peice*, because the two spellings have similar shapes.
- ♦ Ignoring difficult words that are not essential for understanding the main idea. Who has the time to use a dictionary?

Adapted from: [www.antimoon.com](http://www.antimoon.com)

# Culture Corner



## Culture Shock in Spain!

- ☞ People regard their homes as very private places, so if you are asked out to a meal it will probably be to a restaurant rather than to the person's house or flat.



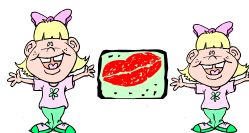
- ☞ It is common to see young children eating in restaurants with their parents, even quite late at night.




- ☞ Evening activity starts late. Restaurants start to fill up around 10 o'clock, and nightlife can carry on till four or five in the morning – or even later.



- ☞ Kissing (on both cheeks) is a common form of greeting between women, and between women and men. It is unusual between men, except when greeting a member of the family or a close friend.



- ☞ If it is your birthday,  you are expected to invite friends or colleagues for a drink or a meal. You are the HOST, so you are expected to PAY.



Doff, A. and Jones, C. 1994. Language in Use: Intermediate. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

# Here's the Answer...

## Fit/suit/go with



**Q**

I'm not quite sure which of the alternatives is appropriate for each sentence. Can you explain?

1. This coat doesn't *fit/suit/go with* you. It's the wrong colour.
2. The tie doesn't *fit/suit/go with* this shirt. It needs to be plain.
3. The sweater doesn't *fit/suit/go with* me. I need a larger size.

**A**

The following sentences show the correct use of the alternatives.

1. The coat doesn't suit you. It's the wrong color.

(suit = look good on someone)



2. The tie doesn't go with this shirt. It needs to be plain.

(go with = match or look good with another item of clothing)



3. The sweater doesn't fit me. I need a larger size.

(fit = be the right size)



Source: Acklam, R. 2002. First Certificate Gold. Longman: Harlow.

**Napassawan**

# ***FUN WITH ENGLISH***

## **Week 3**

### **Quiz**

1. Who invented the first calculator in 1821?
  - a. Charles Babbage
  - b. Charles Guiteau
  - c. Eli Whitney
  - d. Elias Howe
2. Which country's universal legal age of consent is 12?
  - a. England
  - b. Ireland
  - c. Spain
  - d. Luxembourg
3. How long is a nanosecond?
  - a. One billionth of a second
  - b. One millionth of a second
  - c. One millionth of a millionth of a second
  - d. One ten-billionth of a second
4. A hurricane in the Pacific Ocean is called what?
  - a. A cyclone
  - b. A typhoon
  - c. A blizzard
  - d. A monsoon
5. What country is the band AC/DC originally from?
  - a. The U.S.A.
  - b. England
  - c. Canada
  - d. Australia
6. How many cups in a gallon?
  - a. 8
  - b. 12
  - c. 16
  - d. 32
7. What cutting device was invented by Leonardo da Vinci?
  - a. Scissors
  - b. The stiletto knife
  - c. The razor blade
  - d. The guillotine
8. Which of these European countries has no income tax?
  - a. Switzerland
  - b. Monaco
  - c. Sweden
  - d. Belgium
9. Which vegetable contains the most protein?
  - a. Spinach
  - b. Mushroom
  - c. Soybean
  - d. Potato
10. How many minutes long is each half of a professional soccer game?
  - a. 35
  - b. 45
  - c. 60
  - d. 90

### **Answers no.2**

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. borrowed    | 9. happy    |
| 2. beside      | 10. get up  |
| 3. building    | 11. bring   |
| 4. fun         | 12. go with |
| 5. countryside | 13. county  |
| 6. lying       | 14. make    |
| 7. taught      | 15. canals  |
| 8. raise       |             |

### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

**Editor :** Usana Wongnarkpet

**Editorial Team :** Suwanee Auephunsirikul  
 Napassawan Phromsumphun  
 Piyaporn Juntarat  
 Robert P. Cummins

**Production :** Raevadee Tantayavit