



LANGUAGE LINKS

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What's happening this week?

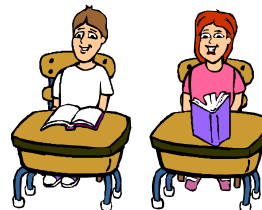
I would like to remind ILC students that your mid-term test is coming up next Monday, February 5, so this Friday has been scheduled as a self-study day. This gives you a good opportunity to prepare yourselves for the test.

Generally, the mid-term test examines what you have learnt, and it also tests your abilities in language comprehension, reading and writing, as well as your oral English. Here is a tip to help you organize your study: go over texts and the notes you made, and revise the language skills, not the contents (for example, how to apply the right reading techniques to approach a particular text; how to make your writing precise and clear with the fewest grammatical mistakes; how to be fluent during a conversation; and how to concentrate and listen carefully while having a listening test). If there are still some points that are not very clear, discuss them with your classmates or ask a teacher.

With all the above points in mind, you will be ready for the test.
GOOD LUCK!

Mid-term test schedule

09.00 - 09.45	Reading
09.50 - 10.35	Writing
10.40 - 11.25	Listening
13.00 - 15.00	Speaking



To ensure that you don't miss the test, please come before 9 a.m.

What's Happening for OCC Students?



The OCC students will be busy working together at their workshop in Singapore. The main objectives of this workshop are to enhance internationalist views about presentations and meetings, and to provide the OCC students with a chance to work systematically through what they have learnt during the course. It will involve discussion in a formal meeting in addition to presentation making – from planning and introducing, to concluding and handling questions. In terms of the output of the workshop, the aim is for the students to be able to make a clear, well-organized presentation in front of an audience.

Does it sound like a practical activity?

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Culture Corner



U.S. Culture

WHAT AMERICANS GENERALLY BELIEVE

All people are equal and deserve an equal opportunity in life. They should all be treated fairly and with the same level of respect. This is one of the most basic principles of American philosophy.



Everyone is free to be an individual. Americans do not believe in conforming to a general ideology or behavior. Individuality and self-expression are encouraged.

Competition brings out the best in people and in businesses. Competition is another of the basic principles of American philosophy.



You are responsible for taking control of your own life and determining your own future. Americans do not believe in luck or fate. They are very proud of their individual achievements.



It is best to be honest and direct. In many cultures, it is considered impolite to speak too frankly or directly about a subject. Americans prefer to speak openly, even when giving a negative opinion or delivering bad news.



Rationality is more important than emotion when making a decision. Americans are often most interested in "the bottom line". In other words, the best decision is the one that has the most productive outcome, usually measured in dollars and cents.

<http://www.usastudyguide.com/americanculture.htm>
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Piyaporn

Here's the Answer...

Learning Strategies

Small & Little



The words *small* and *little* are quite similar. Do they have exactly the same meaning?



SMALL is used just to talk about size. It is the opposite of big or large.

Examples:



Could I have a small brandy, please?



You're too small to be a policeman.

The adjective *little* is used to talk about size + emotion.

If we call something *little*, we usually have some sort of feeling about it – we like it, we dislike it, it makes us laugh, or we think it is sweet.

Examples:



They've bought a pretty little house in the country.

What's that nasty little boy doing in our garden?



'What's he like?' 'Oh, he's a funny little man.'



Poor little thing – come here and let me look after you.

Source: Swan, M.2000. Basic English Usage. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Adapted)

The Best Way to Study a Foreign Language

...continued from last week

Online courses

There are a plenty of online courses to choose from in a wide range of languages. Many are free but some you have to pay for. Some of these chargeable ones provide support from tutors via email, chat programs, video conferencing, telephone or even face to face.



Teaching yourself

There are many different courses designed for self-study available. These include textbooks (with or without cassettes or CDs), cassettes alone, videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs.

Language exchange

A good way to practise and improve your L2 is to find a language exchange partner. This is someone who speaks your L2 and wants to learn your L1. Language exchange works best when both partners have roughly an intermediate level in their L2. Language exchange is also a great way to meet people and make new friends.



Picking it up by osmosis

Some people manage to pick up foreign languages without studying or instruction. This method seems to work best if you're in an environment where nobody speaks your L1. If you've done this, I'd be very interested to hear how you managed it.

Adapted from <http://www.omniglot.com/language/how.htm>

