



LANGUAGE LINKS

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What's happening this week?

Welcome all students to the English-language courses run by the Devawongsbe Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs. To support students' needs, there are two courses being held this term, each offering different English programmes. For students who want to improve their English for their jobs, the Intensive Language Course (ILC) offers not only normal classroom lessons but also a variety of English activities at different locations. The other course is the Oral Communication Course (OCC), designed to build confidence in students and improve fluency and competence in social communication skills.

Students are expected to attend all classroom lessons, and it is **COMPULSORY** to participate in all Friday activities, two of which are excursions outside Bangkok. Lessons will begin for all students on Tuesday 3 April at 9.00 a.m. It sounds like hard work might be recommended throughout the course. Nevertheless, I hope you enjoy it and gain lots of knowledge and experience.



LEARNING STRATEGIES

What's Necessary to Learn English Well

Learning English requires action. You may know all the learning tips, but if you don't start doing things, you will achieve nothing. The fact is, if you want to learn to speak English well, you must change your life. Here are some examples of things you will have to do:

- * read a book in English for an hour every day, analyzing the grammar in sentences and looking up words in an English dictionary
- * listen to an audiobook or other recording in English, stopping it frequently, trying to understand what is being said, and trying to imitate the speaker's pronunciation
- * spend your afternoon practising the pronunciation of the English "r" sound
- * carefully write an e-mail message in English, using a dictionary or a Web search every 20 seconds to make sure every word is correct, and taking 5 minutes to write one sentence
- * think about an English sentence you've read, wondering if it could say "a" instead of "the" in the sentence, and trying to find similar sentences on the Web to find out the answer
- * walk down the street and build simple English sentences in your head (talking to yourself in English about the things you see around you)

Adapted from: www.antimoon.com

Usana

Culture Corner



Interesting Facts in Russia



- As a **foreigner**, you are expected to be **on time** for all business appointments. However, your Russian counterpart may be late, and this may be a test of your patience. Do not expect an apology from a late Russian, and do not demonstrate any kind of attitude even if your business appointments begin one or two hours late.

- Social events are more relaxed. It is acceptable for foreigners to be **15 to 30 minutes late**.

- Patience** is an extremely important virtue among Russians; punctuality is not.



- Negotiations with Russians often involve **flared tempers**. During negotiations and meetings, temper tantrums and walkouts often occur.



- Some 'hard-line' Russians still view **compromise** as a **sign of weakness**, and often refuse to back down. To these individuals, compromising is bad business.

- As a foreigner, you should realize that "**final offers**" are often not actually the end of the negotiations and that often the outcome will be more beneficial and attractive if you can hold out.

- There is a Russian term meaning "connections" or "influences". It is extremely difficult to do business in Russia without help from a local. To help with this, **gifts, money** or other items are often a good idea when doing business in Russia.



- When shaking hands with someone, be sure to take off your gloves, as it is considered rude not to.

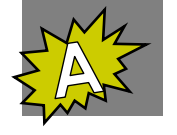


Here's the Answer...

Get/go/take



How do I use **get, go and take**?



Get can mean 'to obtain'.

Take means 'to carry something with you when you go somewhere'.

Get to can mean 'to travel and arrive in a place'.

Go by refers to the mode of transport.

Get to know means 'to meet and find out about some one'.
After that you **know** him/her.

I'm just popping to the cashpoint because I need to **get** some cash.



I need to **get to** the station in ten minutes! My train leaves at 1.30.



It's better to **go** to work **by** bicycle than by car.



If you're going on holiday make sure you **take** enough cash with you.

I **got to know** Sarah when we went on the training course.



I'd like to **get to know** your sister.

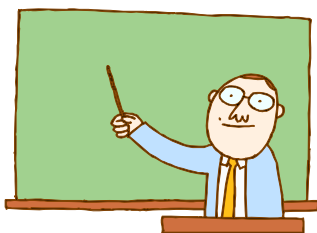
Source: Tayfoor, S. 2004. *Common Mistakes at First Certificate and How to Avoid Them*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No. 1

Quiz

1. Officially, what colour can table tennis balls be?
 - a. Only white.
 - b. Red, white or blue.
 - c. White or yellow.
 - d. Any colour.
2. What's a female elephant called?
 - a. A mare.
 - b. A cow.
 - c. A sow.
 - d. A doc.
3. Why do woodpeckers peck at trees?
 - a. To attract mates.
 - b. To scare away other animals.
 - c. To find insects to eat.
 - d. It's their "telegraph".
4. To the nearest hour, how many hours separate low tides from high tides?
 - a. 6.
 - b. 12.
 - c. 24.
 - d. Tides are totally unpredictable.
5. Which game has the smallest court?
 - a. Handball.
 - b. Squash.
 - c. Tennis.
 - d. Badminton.
6. How many black keys are there on a standard piano?
 - a. 28.
 - b. 33.
 - c. 36.
 - d. 39.
7. What does a philatelist collect?
 - a. Stamps.
 - b. Philanderers.
 - c. Coins.
 - d. Autographs.
8. The speed of light is about 186,000 per?
 - a. Miles per hour.
 - b. Meters per hour.
 - c. Meters per second.
 - d. Miles per second.
9. How many wings does a mongoose have?
 - a. 2.
 - b. 4.
 - c. 6 .
 - d. None.
10. When a cob and a pen mate what is the offspring?
 - A. A lamb.
 - b. A swan.
 - c. A turtle.
 - d. A pigeon.



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