



LANGUAGE LINKS

Vol.2 No.9 May 28, 2007

Language Links is an internal publication of the Devavongse Varopakarn 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?



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

Here's the Answer...

When do I use 'take'?

Q I am not sure how to use 'take'.
Can you explain?

A 'Take' means to move something
to a place away from the speaker.

I'm taking some flowers to Andrew's
house.



Can you take my jacket to the
launderette when you go?



'Bring' means to move something
to the place where the
speaker is.

Can you bring some flowers when
you come?



We also say the following:

He takes photographs of me.
We'll take an exam tomorrow.
Let's take a break. I can't
concentrate any longer.



To 'take advantage of' something
means to make use of it.

I intend to take full
advantage of this
trip to buy the
things we need.



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

Napassawan

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Four Steps to Relax Yourself

Okay, you're nervous
when you have to speak in
public. What do you do?
What do you do?! Well, we're
going to go through four
steps that will help you relax.



Step 1: Admit to yourself that you're
nervous. Acknowledge your fears, but also
realize that you *can* overcome them. Just
remind yourself that you have something
valuable to say and that the audience isn't
likely to be hostile towards you.

Step 2: Think about what you're going to
say and what effect you'll have on your
audience.

Step 3: Act confident. Sure you're nervous,
but the audience doesn't have to know that.
If you project confidence, the audience will
react positively and this will increase your
confidence even more.

Step 4: Start strong and end strong.



Adapted from: www.pbs.org

Usana

Culture Corner



Socializing in Japan



- The Japanese word for toasting is *kampai*, pronounced “kahm-pie”. When toasting, the glass is never left unfilled. Drinking is an important part of Japanese culture. It is a way to relieve business stress.

- Let the host order the meal and pay. Business may be discussed at dinner during these events.



- Japanese rarely entertain in the home. If you are invited to the home of your Japanese host, consider it a great honour and display a tremendous amount of appreciation.



- If you are invited to a social event, punctuality is not expected. It is the custom to be “fashionably late”.

- Key phrases to learn are “itadakimasu” (used at the beginning of dinner) and “gochisou-sama-deshita” (at the end). It is polite to use these phrases, and they will show your host that you enjoyed the meal.



- It is perfectly acceptable to slurp your noodles. Doing so will exhibit your enjoyment of your food. To do otherwise indicates that your meal was not a pleasant one.



- In Japan, the number 14 is considered bad luck because it sounds like *shuh-shuh*, the Japanese word for death.



- Tipping is not expected.



FUN WITH ENGLISH

Week 9 Too many words 2

Replace the words in bold type in the following sentences with a single word.

(The first letter of the word is given)

1. I've just bought a cottage on an island in the **group of islands** outside Stockholm.
(a.....)
2. I've just read a very good **written account of the life** of Beethoven. (b.....)
3. The student **said he was sorry** for his bad behaviour. (a.....)
4. As a child I always wanted to be a **person who performs operations at the hospital**.
(s.....)
5. I must have drunk too much at the party last night. I woke up this morning with a terrible **headache and a feeling of wanting to be sick**. (h.....)
6. As I was reversing into the garage I ran into a post and badly dented the **metal bar fixed at the back of a car for protection**. (b.....)
7. Which **room for patients at the hospital** is your mother in? (w.....)
8. I know it looks difficult at the moment, but don't worry - things will work out **in one way or another**. (s.....)
9. Two cars **drove into one another** at a crossroads this morning in the village of Ninfield, but fortunately no one was hurt. (c.....)
10. By the way, this is my **brother's son**, Roger. (n.....)

Answers no.8

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. snow | 11. swarm |
| 2. peace | 12. stew |
| 3. purse | 13. cream |
| 4. craters | 14. crow |
| 5. ghost | 15. spoon |
| 6. point | 16. gravel |
| 7. dear | 17. cards |
| 8. proof | 18. raft |
| 9. spear | 19. plate |
| 10. tray | 20. snag |

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor : Usana Wongnarkpet

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

Production : Raevadee Tantayavit