



# LANGUAGE LINKS

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## What's happening this week?

The OCC Brain Game will be held at the Prince Palace Hotel this Friday, August 10. This is a fun activity in which ILC students gather and work together in teams in order to answer lots of general knowledge questions. Prizes will be awarded to the team that has scored the highest number of points by the end of the morning's activity. It is a great chance for all ILC students to practise their listening, writing and speaking skills, while widening their general knowledge.



This activity also marks the end of the Oral Communication Course (OCC). As their final assignment, the OCC students will run the activity, thereby putting the knowledge they have gained throughout the course into practice. On behalf of all teachers, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all OCC students on this achievement.

### NOTE:

- \* Please be at the Prince Palace Hotel by 8.45 a.m.
- \* Casual dress is not acceptable

### Tentative Schedule

09.00 OCC Brain Game  
10.30 Coffee/Tea Break  
10.45 OCC Brain Game (continued)  
12.00 Lunch

## LEARNING STRATEGIES

### READING and WRITING

Reading and writing a foreign language are analytical skills. You may be good at these if you are a logical person who attends to detail.

#### Reading Skills Tips:

- First, read the vocabulary list for the assignment. Next, read the questions over the reading. Then read all the way through a new passage two or three times, guessing at meaning from context. Avoid word-by-word translation.
- Isolate new vocabulary and study it separately. DON'T write between the lines! Make flash cards. Carry them with you and recite them several times during the day at odd moments. Over-learn them until they are automatic.
- Isolate new grammatical forms and study them separately. Write the pattern on a flash card and memorize it. Write out and label a model sentence. When you encounter the form while reading, pause and recite the pattern to recognize the form.

#### Writing Skills Tips:

- Pay attention to detail: notice accents, order of letters, etc. Compare letter by letter different forms (singular, plural, gender, etc.). Write out conjugations of verbs, declensions of pronouns, etc., and check your endings. Memorize irregular verbs.
- To master spelling, have a friend dictate 10 words to you. Write them out and immediately have your friend spell them correctly aloud while you look carefully and point at each letter. Repeat until you get all the words right.
- Write (in your own simple foreign vocabulary words) a story you have just read.

Adapted from: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/utic/irnrres/handouts/1705.html>

Usana

# Culture Corner



## Cultural Etiquette in Singapore



### Meeting & Greeting



Shake hands with everyone present at a business meeting or social occasion. Shake hands again when leaving. Your handshake should be firm.



Singaporeans may bow slightly as they shake your hand. Many Westerners are generally taller than Singaporeans, so it would be polite to give a small bow. A slight bow for Chinese or older people is polite.

### Corporate Culture



Westerners are expected to be punctual for social occasions and business meetings. Call if you are delayed. Tardiness is viewed as a sign of disrespect.



Business cards are exchanged upon being introduced. Exchange business cards with both hands after you are introduced.



Personal contacts are important in business. It takes several years to develop business relationships. Take time to know people before discussing business.

Singaporeans tend to get right down to business in meetings. They are fast-paced and can make decisions quickly.



Always talk straight and get right to the point with Singaporeans. You can be direct when dealing with issues of money.



*Adapted from material compiled by Window on the World, a cross-cultural training and consulting firm. Originally based on material contained in the "Put Your Best Foot Forward"*

Piyaporn

# Here's the Answer...

## Commonly Confused Words



I find some words such as *sports/sporting/sport*, *open/opened* and *varied/variety* confusing to use. Can you explain the differences?



***Sports, sporting or sport?***

We can use *sports* and *sporting* as adjectives. *Sport* is a countable noun.

*Welcome to the school sports day. There are a number of sporting events.*

*What's your favorite sport? Do you do any sports?*



Common collocations with sports: *sports centre, sports club, sports day, sports competition, sports equipment, sports programme, sports teacher*

***Open or opened?***

We can use *open* as an adjective. *Opened* is a verb.

*We're open for business around the clock. The shop opened an hour ago.*



***Varied or variety?***

We can use *-ing* or *-ed* participles as adjectives. *Variety* is a noun.

*We offer a varied choice of dishes. A variety of dishes are available. You should eat a variety of food daily.*



Powell, D. 2005. *Common mistakes at CAE and how to avoid them*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

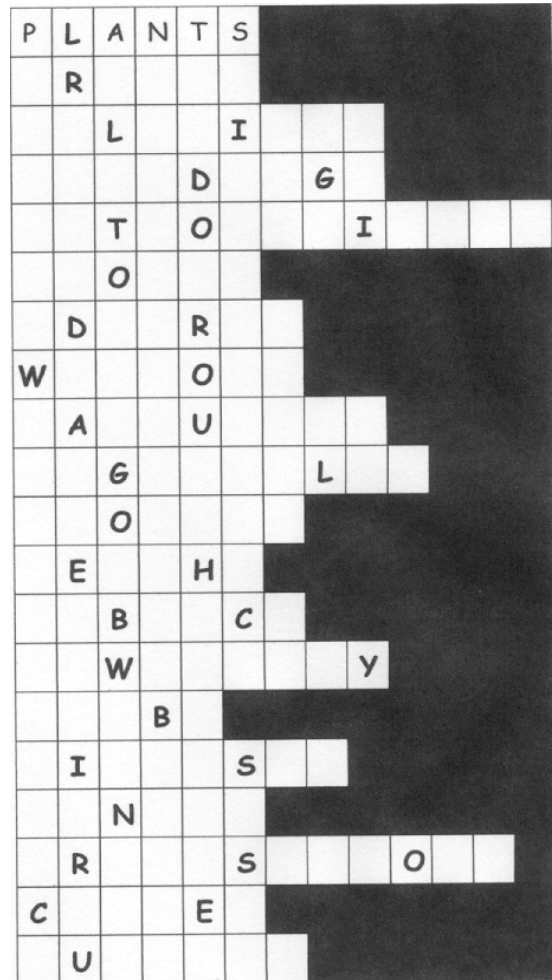
**Napassawan**

# FUN WITH ENGLISH

## No. 6 Classifications 2

Write one name to describe each of the following groups of words. Before starting, look at the example.

- 1 Mercury, Mars, Venus, Saturn
- 2 apricot, date, grape, peach
- 3 Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam
- 4 cathedral, block of flats, museum, department store
- 5 Swiss, Dutch, Welsh, Belgian
- 6 golf, polo, rugby, wrestling
- 7 slowly, better, softly, enthusiastically
- 8 bow and arrow, dagger, machine gun, hand grenade
- 9 Gaelic, Hebrew, Yiddish, Swahili
- 10 leek, brussels sprout, turnip, spinach
- 11 mallet, plane, electric drill, screwdriver
- 12 pounds, kilos, grammes, ounces
- 13 corduroy, cotton, satin, crinoline
- 14 necklace, earrings, locket, bracelet
- 15 arrowroot, chicory, parsley, sage
- 16 smallpox, measles, mumps, bronchitis
- 17 minuet, tango, jive, polka
- 18 by, from, in, on
- 19 arson, theft, rape, fraud
- 20 250, 6, 27, 99



### Answer no.5

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1 cities     | 11 luggage     |
| 2 mammals    | 12 oceans      |
| 3 adjectives | 13 ships       |
| 4 games      | 14 colour      |
| 5 continents | 15 letters     |
| 6 rooms      | 16 instruments |
| 7 poultry    | 17 professions |
| 8 stationery | 18 aircraft    |
| 9 lingerie   | 19 races       |
| 10 make-up   | 20 drugs       |

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