



LANGUAGE LINKS

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What's happening this week?

This week we'll visit the Bank of Thailand Museum, which is housed in Bangkhunprom Palace (now a part of the Bank of Thailand's premises). The tour will run from 9.00 to 12.00.



One of the museum's objectives is to preserve the Thai currency, 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 a.m.
- Casual dress is **not** acceptable.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

LISTENING and SPEAKING

Listening and speaking are performance skills. Students in foreign language classes often have difficulty hearing and speaking because they are anxious about making mistakes. Give yourself permission to be spontaneous and to take risks.

Listening Skills Tips:

- Frequent the language lab. Read the exercises in your book first, and then listen and read together. Then listen without looking at the print. Say aloud/write what you hear.
- Participate silently in class when others are called on to speak. Focus on the task; don't worry about how you'll do.
- If you feel nervous, relax yourself physically by taking a couple of slow, deep breaths. When called on, pause, relax and give yourself time to respond.
- Listen while a friend dictates to you, and write what you hear. Check for accuracy.
- Practise: join language clubs, watch foreign TV and listen to foreign radio.

Speaking Skills Tips:

- Study out loud! Mimic the sounds of the language. Don't mumble. Although most people feel embarrassed making strange sounds, the language will soon feel more familiar to you.
- When called on in class, say something even if it's wrong; you'll learn from it. If you need a moment to think, repeat the question. If you don't know the answer, say in your foreign language "I don't know" or "Help!"
- Practise with a foreign student who wants your help to learn English, or with another class member.

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

Usana

Culture Corner



Cultural Etiquette in Singapore



Gift Giving



Each ethnic group shares different gift giving traditions.



Use **both hands** to give someone a gift. A gift given to a guest or the host is not opened in the presence of the giver.



Be **careful** that the gift – however small – is not misinterpreted as a bribe. Never give a government official a gift as it might be considered a bribe.



Always **bring the hosts a gift** when invited to someone's home.

Helpful Hints



Singapore has strict regulations which carry stiff **fin**es, possible jail sentences or even death. You should never do the following: jaywalk; smoke in public or in air-conditioned buildings (except country clubs); enter the country with drugs; litter; or import, manufacture, sell or use chewing gum.



Avoid public displays of affection.



Do not show anger or emotions or raise your voice. Remain disciplined and in control.



Avoid discussing religion or politics.

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" series of books by Mary Murray Bosrock.

Here's the Answer...

When do I use 'regarding'?

Q

I am not sure how to use the word *regarding*. Can you explain?

A

In a formal context, we use **regarding + noun** to introduce a new idea or topic:

Regarding your visit on Thursday, I wonder if you could arrive after 10.00.



Other expressions used in this way are **as regards** and **as for**. The phrase **as regards** often indicates a change of topic:

The food for the event has been organized. However, **as regards** the entertainment...

When **regarding** occurs mid-sentence, it often replaces the preposition **about**:

I am writing to you **regarding/about** your choice of accommodation.



Regarding can also partner words in place of **in**, **of** and **on**:

We've made remarkable progress **regarding/in** customer relations.

What are your expectations **regarding/of** the team?

Ten years ago, these regulations **regarding/on** working conditions did not exist.



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

Napassawan

