



LANGUAGE LINKS

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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...

Fit/suit/go



I'm not quite sure which is the correct alternative in these sentences. Can you explain?

1. This coat doesn't *fit/suit/go with* you. It's the wrong colour.
2. The tie doesn't *fit/suit/go with* this shirt. It needs to be plain.
3. The sweater doesn't *fit/suit/go with* me. I need a larger size.



The following sentences show the correct use of the alternatives.

1. The coat doesn't suit you. It's the wrong color.

(suit = look good on someone)



2. The tie doesn't go with this shirt. It needs to be plain.

(go with = match or look good with another item of clothing)



3. The sweater doesn't fit me. I need a larger size.

(fit = be the right size)



Source: Acklam, R. 2002. *First Certificate Gold*. Longman: Harlow.

Napassawan

Culture Corner



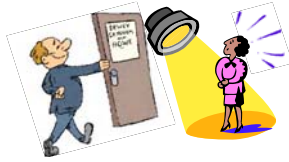
Meeting & Greeting in Canada



Shake hands and introduce yourself when meeting Canadians for the first time. Always shake hands firmly when meeting or departing. Eye contact is important.



When a woman enters or leaves a room, it is polite for men to rise. Men normally offer their hands to women.



In Quebec, kissing on the cheeks in the French manner is quite common. When close friends and family meet in Quebec, they use first names and kiss both cheeks.



An older French Canadian man may kiss the hand of a woman. Accept this gesture graciously. A foreign man should **not** kiss the hand of a French Canadian woman, who would be quite shocked.



Canadians use last names and appropriate titles; first names are normally used by close friends and family only. Western Canadians may use first names more frequently than other Canadians.



Academic titles and degrees are important to French Canadians. You should know and use them properly.



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.

LEARNING STRATEGIES

How to improve your Speaking and Pronunciation Skills

The first rule of speaking English is to speak clearly and concisely, and to use simple vocabulary. (Remember, **KISS** = keep it short and simple.)

Keep in mind, too, that you probably won't converse just with native speakers. There are roughly 380 million native speakers of English in the world, but as many as a billion people speak it as a second language. So it's a good idea to avoid idioms and slang. Short sentences are just as good (if not better) than long explanations. The value in what you have to say is what you say, not how clever you look or sound when you say it.

Pronunciation skills

Accents don't matter, but pronunciation is important.

- ✚ Make lists of words that have the same sound, and add to the lists as you learn more words.
- ✚ Work on one problem sound at a time.
- ✚ Read slowly, concentrating on the pronunciation of particular words.
- ✚ Record yourself, keep the tape and record yourself again later. (Have you improved?)
- ✚ Don't be shy – ask a friend to listen to the tape, too.
- ✚ Don't worry about sounding exactly like a native speaker: it is more important to speak clearly and pleasantly than to sound like the Queen of England.

The most important thing to think about is whether people can understand you or not. If you have a problem being understood, then find someone who speaks English clearly and try to copy the way they speak. Pay particular attention to speed and diction.



Adapted from : <http://www.learnenglish.de/ImproveEnglish/improvespeakingpage.htm>

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No.8

Words ending in "O" (2)

Read through the sentences and fill in the missing words, each of which ends with the letter "O".

- 1 To be..... is to hide your own identity by taking another person's name when your own is well known.
- 2 A mountain with a crater at the top out of which lava escapes from time with a powerfully explosive force.
- 3 A musical instrument.
- 4 A member of a small fighting force specially trained for dangerous enterprises against the enemy.
- 5 Where an artist or photographer works.
- 6 The young of any creature in its first state before birth, or before coming out of an egg.
- 7 The goods carried by ship, plane or other vehicle.
- 8 The ring of light around a saint's head in a painting.
- 9 A short sentence or phrase taken as the guiding principle of a person and the way he or she behaves, or of a family or of a school, etc.
- 10 A type of heel on women's shoes, especially popular during the 60s.

1		N				N			O
2					L				O
3						I			O
4				M					O
5					T				O
6				E					O
7							R		O
8									O
9							T		O
10		T							O

Answer no.7

- 1 hero
- 2 buffalo
- 3 echo
- 4 patio
- 5 mosquito
- 6 polo
- 7 ghetto
- 8 tango
- 9 casino
- 10 polio (short for poliomyelitis)

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