



# LANGUAGE LINKS

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## What's happening this week?

**F**or this week's excursion, we're taking you out on an English Camp, to be held at the Cha-Am Methavalai Hotel.

There will be a variety of English activities at the camp. We strongly encourage all students to USE ENGLISH throughout the whole trip, not only while doing organized activities, but also when just chatting to each another. Most importantly, this is a good chance for all of you to join in activities with people from other classes. How does that sound?

We hope what you will get from this trip is not only a chance to practise English outside the classroom, but also an opportunity to gain knowledge in various areas.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you on this trip!

### TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR ENGLISH CAMP AT THE CHA-AM METHAVALAI HOTEL CHA-AM, PETBURI AUGUST 29-31, 2007



#### August 29, 2007

07.30 Leave the Institute  
11.00 Arrive at the Cha-Am Methavalai Hotel  
12.00 Lunch  
13.30 The Opening of the English Camp  
13.45 English Activities  
14.30 Coffee / Tea Break  
15.00 English Activities (continued)  
18.30 Dinner

#### August 31, 2007

09.00 English Rally  
12.00 Lunch  
13.30 Leave the Cha-Am Methavalai Hotel  
18.00 Arrive at the Institute

#### August 30, 2007

09.00 Group Production Activity  
10.30 Coffee / Tea Break  
10.45 Group Production Activity (continued)  
12.00 Lunch  
13.30 Group Production Activity (continued)  
14.30 Coffee / Tea Break  
15.00 Group Production Activity (continued)  
18.30 Dinner



**NOTE:** \* Casual dress is recommended

\* Lots of facilities are available, e.g. swimming pools (swimming suit is needed), fitness centre, tennis court and karaoke room.

**Usana**

# Culture Corner



Some topics may be considered taboo in some cultures. In the UK, many people avoid the topic of **religion**. This may be because Britain is now a very secular country where religion has a relatively minor role, or it may be that we regard someone's religious beliefs as very personal.



A stereotype of the Americans is that they ask you how much money you earn quite soon after meeting you. This is certainly not generally true. However, Americans do tend to be more open about money and its importance.



**Death** is a taboo subject in many cultures; people seem to be ill at ease discussing anything connected with the end of their lives!



**Politics** can be a delicate subject in some parts of the world. In the UK, many people are very guarded about their political allegiance.



Comfort, J.1997. *Effective Socializing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Piyaporn

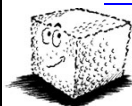
# Here's the Answer...

## Here...

**Q** I really don't know the meaning of certain phrases containing the word '**here**', such as *here you are*, *here and there*, *here we go again*, and *here goes*. Can you explain?

**A** '**Here (you are).**' (Informal) a phrase used when giving something to someone:

'*Could you pass the sugar, please?*' '**Here you are.**'  
**Here**, try some of this – it's delicious!



'**Here we go again.**' (Informal) → said when something bad starts happening again:

*Oh, **here we go again!** Claude's just asked to borrow some more money from me.*

'**Here and there.**' → in different places:

*There were a few books **here and there**, but apart from that the room was quite bare.*



'**Here goes.**' (Informal) → said just before you do something brave, or something that you have never done before:

*Well, I've never ridden a motorbike before, so **here goes!***



Source:

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=54642&dict=CALD>

Napassawan

# LEARNING STRATEGIES

## "How do I Improve My English?"

This is a common question raised by people who would like to improve their English. Here are some steps to help you on your journey towards personal English enlightenment. I hope they will help light a path for you.

### **Step 1: Discover Your Motivation**

Firstly, what will motivate you to spend 30 minutes a day, everyday, learning something? Learning another language requires a big commitment of time on your part. The most important motivator is to have fun. This might involve using the right material, finding the right topic, and using the right learning techniques.

### **Step 2: Searching for Your Personal Study Elements**



#### **Fun Sources for Improving Your Reading:**

When reading articles, don't look up your dictionary right away. A very good habit is to guess first. Also, after you read, ask yourself which parts of the article you liked the most.



#### **Effective Writing Techniques:**

To have good writing, you must first read good articles. You can also practise by writing "outlines" for the articles from time to time.



#### **Speaking Clearly:**

Reading in front of a mirror is a good way to practise speaking. After you get comfortable with this, add more volume and emotion into what you are saying. Remember to speak up – it doesn't matter how good your pronunciation is if you can't be heard!

Also, make sure you stop longer at periods, and read sentences ending in question marks and exclamation marks differently to sentences ending in periods.



#### **Work it out for yourself!**

Ideally, the principle of "working the answer out for yourself" should be followed. You shouldn't look in your dictionaries. You should use dictionaries only as a "last resort", not as the "first option".

Adapted from: <http://www.path2english.com/Tips.htm>

