



# LANGUAGE LINKS

Vol.4 No.1 October 1, 2007

Language Links is an internal publication of the Devawongse 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/web/2459.php>

Welcome all students to the English language courses run by the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs. To support students' needs, there are two courses being held this term, each offering different English programmes. For students who want to improve their English for their jobs, the Intensive Language Course (ILC) offers not only normal classroom lessons but also a variety of English activities at different locations. The other course is the Oral Communication Course (OCC), designed to build confidence in students and improve fluency and competence in social communication skills.

Students are expected to attend all classroom lessons, and it is **COMPULSORY** to participate in all Friday activities, two of which are excursions outside Bangkok. Lessons will begin for all students at 11.00 a.m. Monday morning, following the orientation programme. It sounds like hard work might be recommended throughout the course. Nevertheless, I hope you enjoy it and gain lots of knowledge and experience.

what's happening this week?



This Friday's activity has been arranged so that all ILC and OCC students, as well as teachers and staff, can get together, get to know each other better and perhaps make some new friends! There will be a number of fun English-based activities for you to join in, giving you the chance to meet, talk to, and work together with students from other classes, as

well as your own. These "Ice Breaking Activities" will be held at the Prince Palace Hotel, starting at 9 a.m. and finishing about midday. We look forward to seeing you there!

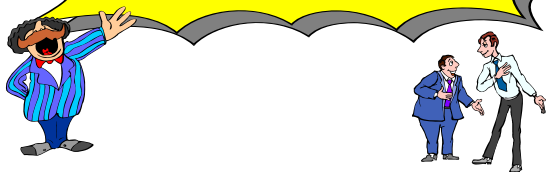
**NOTE:**

- Please be at the Prince Palace Hotel (11th floor) around 8.45 a.m.
- Wear your nametag.
- Dress neatly.

*Usana*

# Culture Corner

## Names and Titles



The Americans are famous for their early use of first names in any relationship, however formal. You sometimes notice how Americans repeat your name frequently in the first five minutes of conversation.



The British also use first names most of the time. However, they are not so good at remembering names and will frequently use no name at all!!!

In some cultures it is important to address someone using their title – for example Doctor, Professor, etc. In both British and American cultures people tend not to use titles.



In fact, in an effort to be completely egalitarian, they often avoid the title Mrs, which indicates a woman is married. Instead, the title Ms (pronounced 'muz') is preferred. This is also frequently used in written correspondence.



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

Helgesen, M. et.al. 1996. *Active Listening: Expanding Understanding Through Content*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Piyaporn

# Here's the Answer...

## Have or Have Got?



Could you tell me the difference between *have* and *have got*?



We can use either *have* or *have got* to talk about owning or possessing something, or to describe personal characteristics.

He *'s got* a bad temper. = He *has* a bad temper.



We *have* a new car. = We *'ve got* a new car.

Mahmoud *has got/has* his own business in London.

I'll have to do overtime. I *haven't got/ don't have* any money at the moment.



Her new boyfriend *has got/has* a very good sense of humour.

We use only *have* – never *have got* – to talk about actions or experiences such as *have lunch, have a bath, have difficulty, have fun, have an accident, have a holiday*, etc.

I often *have difficulty* with phrasal verbs.



We *don't* use *have got* to talk about the past or the future.

He can't walk very well at the moment. He *had an accident* last year.

I expect I will *have fun* when I see Marcus.



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

Napassawan

# LEARNING STRATEGIES

## Understanding How You Learn

There are different ways to learn. Find out what kind of learner you are in order to better understand how to learn more effectively.

### The visual learner

Do you need to see your teacher during lessons in order to fully understand the content of a lesson?

Do you prefer to sit at the front of the classroom to avoid visual obstructions (e.g. people's heads)?

Do you think in pictures and learn best from visual displays including: diagrams, illustrated textbooks, overhead transparencies, videos, flipcharts and handouts?

During a lecture or classroom discussion, do you prefer to take detailed notes to absorb the information?



*!Learning Tip - you may benefit from taking part in traditional English lessons, but maybe private lessons would be better.*

### The auditory learner

Do you learn best through verbal lectures, discussions, talking things through and listening to what others have to say?

Do you interpret the underlying meanings of speech through listening to tone of voice, pitch, speed and other nuances?

Does written information have little meaning until you hear it?

*!Learning Tip - you may benefit from listening to the radio or listening to text as you read it. You could try reading text aloud and using a tape recorder to play it back to yourself.*



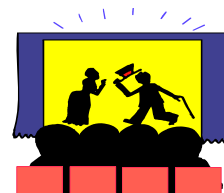
### The tactile/kinesthetic learner

Do you learn best through a hands-on approach, actively exploring the physical world around you?

Do you find it hard to sit still for long periods?

Do you become distracted easily?

*!Learning Tip - you may benefit from taking an active part in role plays or drama activities.*



Adapted from: [www.learnenglish.de/english\\_tips/english\\_tips.htm](http://www.learnenglish.de/english_tips/english_tips.htm)

**Usana**

