



LANGUAGE LINKS

Vol.4 No.8 November 19, 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>

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

Culture Corner



Gift Giving



If you are invited to a wedding, baby shower, bar mitzvah or other celebration, it is expected that you will bring a gift.



For a wedding, the bride will have "registered" at one or two local department stores, indicating the items and styling she prefers. You can buy the couple a gift that is not listed, but most people buy something listed on the registry. If you buy an item listed on the registry, be sure to tell the store that you are doing this, so that the couple does not receive duplicate gifts.



For a baby shower, bring a gift appropriate for a newborn baby.



For a bar mitzvah, bring a gift appropriate for a 13-year-old boy.



Bar mitzvah gifts tend to be more formal in nature. For example,



a gold plated Cross pen is quite common. Personalizing the pen by engraving the recipient's full name would be appropriate.



Kantrowitz, M. 2004. www.eduPASS.org.
FinAid Page, LLC.

Piyaporn

LEARNING STRATEGIES

Tips on Reading Newspapers

There are a number of steps you can take to learn to read newspapers more effectively – and to improve your English at the same time. Here are some of the most useful:



 **Read frequently, even if it is only for a short time.**

Twenty or thirty minutes four or more times a week is generally better than reading for several hours once a week.

 **Follow stories for several days.**


Most major news stories continue for more than one day. At first these stories may seem difficult, but they will become much easier and more interesting as you become familiar with them. You will quickly notice, for example, that certain key words are repeated almost every day, making them easy to learn and difficult to forget.

 **Read news stories even if you are not especially interested in the news.**

News stories are by far the easiest to read because of their unique style.

 **Read certain columns regularly.**

Many readers follow *the same columns* every day.

 **For longer stories, first look to see how they are organised.**

Features, for example, usually have several distinct parts. This will save you from getting lost and it will allow you to read them as several short sections rather than one long story.



Adapted from <http://www.bangkokpost.net/education/stutips.htm>

Usana

Here's the Answer...

Talking About the Future

Q: Can I use present tenses to talk about the future?

A: Several different future forms are possible, but in general we most commonly use the *present continuous* to talk about an arrangement.



I'm *taking* my exam tomorrow!



I normally leave work early on Friday, but this Friday I *am working* late.

Have you heard from Luca recently? He's *getting* married next month.

- We use *will* for instant reactions, predictions and promises.

That's the doorbell! I'll *get* it.



I'll *probably stay* in tomorrow night.



It's very gloomy weather; I think I *will stay* indoors today.

Sorry I'm late. I promise it *won't happen* again!



- We use the *present simple* for future timetabled events.

The plane *leaves* at 8 am.



The conference *starts* at 9 am, so we'll have to set off early.



There's no hurry, the film *doesn't start* until 9 am.



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

FUN WITH ENGLISH

No.8

Choose the answer

Choose the correct definition for the words in 1-10.

- 1 A gutter
 - a a pipe at the bottom of the roof to collect rainwater
 - b a type of headwear
 - c a person who is not very brave
 - d a person who is unable to speak clearly
- 2 Biennial
 - a twice a year
 - b every two years
 - c every year
 - d every leap year
- 3 A metronome
 - a an evil fairy
 - b an instrument used by scientists to determine the age of meteors
 - c a type of chimney
 - d an instrument with a pendulum which can be altered to give musicians a regular beat at different speeds
- 4 To relish
 - a to enjoy
 - b to live again
 - c to release
 - d to put a new cover on a book
- 5 Insomnia
 - a the inability to keep awake
 - b the inability to sleep
 - c the inability to remember things
 - d the inability to have children
- 6 A busker
 - a a street singer
 - b slang for bus conductor
 - c a type of plant
 - d a man who studies trees and bushes
- 7 Dusk
 - a very thick layer of dust
 - b the time of day when light first appears
 - c a short, informal discussion
 - d the time when daylight is fading
- 8 Blackmail
 - a slang for bills which come through the post
 - b getting money from someone by threatening to make known some unpleasant facts about the person
 - c money received through the post on which no tax is paid
 - d a sea creature with eight arms or tentacles
- 9 A miser
 - a a very unhappy person
 - b a person who studies rats, mice and other rodents
 - c a person who loves money so much that he or she stores it and hardly ever spends it
 - d the smallest bird in Britain
- 10 A lodger
 - a a person who pays rent to stay in someone's home
 - b an account book which records the income and expenditure of a company or business
 - c a person who studies and knows a lot about logic
 - d a type of wild cat

Answers no.7

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|----|-----------|
| 1 | court | 10 | gasometer |
| 2 | theatre | 11 | orchard |
| 3 | reservoir | 12 | warehouse |
| 4 | nursery | 13 | prison |
| 5 | vault | 14 | laundry |
| 6 | aquarium | 15 | aviary |
| 7 | market | 16 | cemetery |
| 8 | zoo | 17 | surgery |
| 9 | farm | | |

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